

Edinburgh Festival

FESTIVAL 2003

dance & physical theatre

Rating Guide

None = Unmissable

🍷🍷🍷🍷 = Unwatchable

Page number refers to the Fringe programme

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Gateway to Scotland's capital

Danztresse/Zuleikha in Concert. (Page 65)

🍷 **Drams just a wee nip needed.**

Venue The Garage. (Venue 81)

Address Grindlay Street Court.

Reviewer Ksenija Horvat.

A shimmering figure in a mask rises from the darkness of the Citrus Club and begins her story: 'Long, long ago...' and as a story about a wild woman in the woods undrapes before one's eyes, the storydancer begins to move.

Zuleikha is a singular figure on the horizon of sacred theatre and dance, a mistress of countless faces who moves effortlessly through space, telling her stories from old and new traditions by means of movement and rhythm. Born in a musical San Francisco family, Zuleikha has studied with masters around the world - India, Afghanistan, Japan and Turkey. These different traditions, woven through the Natya concept of danced-theatre that is the core of her work, are all fused in her performances. Witty and ageless, Zuleikha's work is beguiling and exhilarating, leaving one with the urge to jump and join in. And this is exactly where the only blemish of this production lies - the fourth wall of theatre remains unbroken. The audience sit politely in their seats while she performs before them. Before them, for them, but never amongst them, and no matter how strong the allure is, the overall effect would be far stronger if the spectators were sucked even further into the performance by sitting on the stage.



Zuleikha herself feels that as more people 'learn to enter the stream of inner freedom through the expression of the body, the relationship to life itself and our environment will take a new dimensions of healing'.(Zuleikha's website) So why then was not her audience invited to sit next to her, around her, as to experience the full impact of her powerful creative process? The Citrus Club's intimate space surely allows for it.

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Runs to 25 August 2003 (not 11th, 18th), 20:10.

Company Zuleikha: The Storydancer.

Company Website <http://www.storydancer.com>