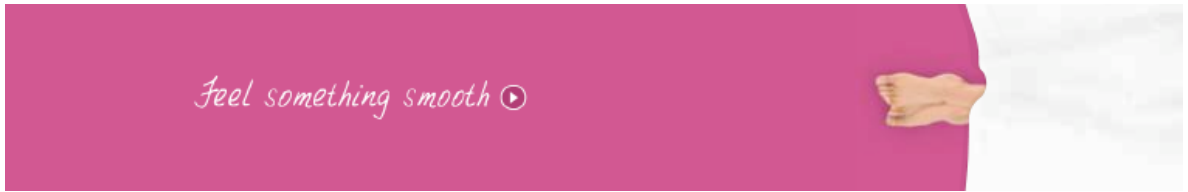




Monday, 25 Feb 2008

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## Review: La Vie

SIMON SWEETMAN - The Dominion Post | Monday, 25 February 2008

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**If you have saved your pennies and are still deciding the one show at the arts festival to take a punt on – then look no further; this is the one.**

This late-night, vaguely adult-themed mix of music, theatre, dance and acrobatics has all the excitement of a circus, the intrigue and bawdy humour of a cabaret-styled multimedia performance and the immediacy of intimate theatre.

La Vie is the brainchild of Les 7 Doigts de la Main, a talented group of contortionists who combine magic and comedy, dance and live-singing. It all amounts to a variety show that should prove fun for any adult audience.

The performers are amazing – dive-rolling across the stage, balancing with one hand on the shoulders of fellow performers, suspended from the ceiling, twirling in chains, juggling diabolo and swapping tricks in the middle of an act – there is so much to take in and it is constantly spellbinding.

Individual segments never grow stale, yet there are moments where the poetic beauty of a suspended human form, twirling and spinning, is left to dangle in thought – as if slowed in time for all to take in. There are jokes and sight-gags to keep the momentum up and it is all matched to clever beat-juggling and cut-and-paste DJing.

There's a wry humour in some of the song selections: Patsy Cline's Back In Baby's Arms sees a woman in a straightjacket fighting to get free, this morphs in to Cline's Crazy which is then sped up and slowed down as the dancer/contortionist attempts to free herself from the stage asylum.

Imagine the Cirque du Soleil as a pared down and risqué cabaret act – but this will only give you an inkling of an idea of what La Vie is all about. It is the perfect arts festival show, literally containing something for everyone, constantly breathtaking.

I want to go see it again. Soon.


*La Vie. Pacific Blue Festival Club, 10.15pm. Until March 16.*

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### Monday's schedule

- [Blackbird](#), SHED 6, WATERFRONT, *till Mar 2, 7.30pm*
- [A Hawk and a Hacksaw](#), PACIFIC BLUE FESTIVAL CLUB, 7.30pm
- [The Lindbergh Flight/The Flight Over The Ocean and The Seven Deadly Sins](#), ST JAMES THEATRE, *also Feb 26, 8pm*
- Proudly sponsored by Meridian Energy [Body Movies](#), *till Mar 16*, TE PAPA, CABLE ST FACADE, 9pm-1am
- [The Clemenger BBDO Season of Three Sisters](#), OPERA HOUSE, *till Feb 26, 7pm*
- [Cirque Ici](#), *till Mar 16*, ODLINS PLAZA, WELLINGTON WATERFRONT, 9pm
- [Surface Tension](#), TE PAPA, *till Mar 16*

- [Lunchtime Floortalks](#), TE PAPA, LEVEL 2, *also Feb 28 and Mar 4, 6, 11, 13, 12.15pm-1pm*
- [Art talk with National Theatre Of Scotland](#), PACIFIC BLUE FESTIVAL CLUB, 1.15pm
- [Lucid 3 and Friends](#), PACIFIC BLUE FESTIVAL CLUB, 7.30pm
- [The Lindbergh Flight/The Flight Over The Ocean and The Seven Deadly Sins](#), ST JAMES THEATRE, 8pm

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