

VARDO

ANU Productions

The Dublin Theatre Festival | Sept 23rd - Oct 12th

Vardo is the final part of ANUS' multi award-winning Monto Cycle (World's End Lane, Laundry and The Boys of Foley Street), which spans the last one hundred years of history in Dublin. Oonagh Young offered the gallery to ANU productions as an important part of the gallery programme. Their use of site-specific theatre shares many qualities found in current artistic practices (within the post-modern framework) that are challenging yet speculative and reflective. The breakdown of traditional categories e.g 'theatre' or 'art, and the notion of process is at the very core of how ANU research and build their stories. History comes face-to-face with the here-and-now through recorded archives of actual events combined with collected stories from people living in the area today.

Their method moves beyond a moral critique of the social, political or hegemonic cultural practices, towards a fuller, richer understanding through an immersive live experience outside the comfort of the theatre space. Rather than mere spectator, the audience assumes a more active role and level of responsibility. This relieves the artist as sole arbiter or originator of meaning and places the viewer in control.

The gallery programme, over the last six years, has featured performance, music, literature and architecture amongst many contemporary art exhibitions. Anu Productions form an essential element within a framework of collective and interdisciplinary working interrelationships. Implicit in this methodology is an alternative way to view current artistic practices through direct engagement with other artistic strategies.

Operating 24 hours a day and barely hidden beneath the city's surface, an army of undocumented workers fuel a thriving invisible economy. They are transient, they are temporary, they are traffic. Real names and identities are hidden and what we see is not necessarily what we get. A boundary-pushing, site-specific work, Vardo will take audiences on a stimulating and intimate journey to explore first-hand the present day underworld of Dublin's north inner city.

Tickets for Vardo can be bought through The Dublin Theatre Festival Box Office. Contains strong language and material that some may find disturbing. This event is of a participatory nature and limited to 4 people per performance. This performance is not suitable for patrons who have impaired mobility or special access. Supported by Create – the National Development Agency for Collaborative Arts in social and community contexts.