

\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*

**rotozaza's etiquette** is a half-hour experience for two people in a public space. There is no-one watching - other people in the café or bar are not aware of it. You wear headphones which tell you what to say to each other, or to use one of the objects positioned to the side. There is a kind of magic involved - for it to work you just need to listen and respond accordingly. Best done with someone you know, someone to share this with.

Etiquette exposes human communication at both its rawest and most delicate and explores the difficulty of turning our thoughts into words we can trust. A young girl and a philosopher lead the participants into several micro-situations, many of them borrowed from film and theatre, where the 'bubble' shared between two people splits and reforms incessantly.

Much of Rotozaza's recent work involves instructions given live to unrehearsed and often non-professional actors. These 'guests' often describe the strange thrill involved in handing themselves over and simply doing what they're told; to relinquish responsibility and to allow a different kind of performance to emerge. Now, in a deft and generous move, Rotozaza invite their audience to experience this for themselves, whilst at the same enjoying a 'show'... and so, somewhat magically, to be both performer and audience.

Conversation (which in some way involves an implicit agreement to continuously swap those roles) becomes both device and subject matter. A system of synchronised audio over two headphones allows for two very different experiences and perspectives to criss-cross: at one moment you may be far from each other, in separate worlds, the next joined together in a kind of 'engineered' dialogue. (Etiquette offers the fantasy of speaking with someone without having to plan what you say; that the responses become unpredictable only increases tension and means that to do this with someone you know is particularly interesting - you can't play your 'usual tricks'.)

All this is achieved with an extreme of Rotozaza's usual economy of means: two stereo headphones and a few small objects. With ETIQUETTE, Rotozaza have attained their long-held dream of creating an entirely pre-recorded and infinitely portable piece of live theatre, available for translation into any language.

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Ant Hampton and Silvia Mercuriali (Rotozaza) have created Etiquette in collaboration with Paul Bennun, founder and director of Somethin' Else. Paul holds internationally recognised awards, co-authored the British Government's recent report on the future of digital music, and has worked with Artangel, John Berger and Theatre de Complicité.

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**WHEN** - August 2 - 27, every day except 7th and 14th (venue closed). Every half hour starting 11am, finishing 11.30. *NB! > Etiquette begins automatically at .00 and .30 mins - latecomers not admitted - please arrive early.*

**WHERE** - Aurora Nova - (Venue 8), St. Stephen's St., Edinburgh EH3 5AB  
- downstairs café: collect tickets at box office.

**HOW MUCH** - Tickets are £5 p.person, should be booked in pairs and can be bought through the Assembly Rooms and Aurora Nova.

There are two, possibly three 'tables' so it is possible for more than one couple to book Etiquette for the same time.

Etiquette is not part of the Fringe programme and does not feature on their website.

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