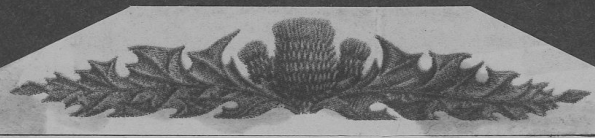


THE TOP GUIDE TO EDINBURGH TODAY

No. 46.

FESTIVAL



SEVEN STAGES Forough Ensemble Chaplaincy Centre

SEVEN STAGES, a highly ritualised dramatisation of Persian poetry, is based on the work of Jelaluddin Rumi, a 13th century Sufi poet, Forough Farrokhzad, a 20th century Iranian woman poet, and monologues devised by the director, Mahmood Karimi-Hakak, and the American company. It roughly divides into two parts, the first in which the performers, five women and one man, (three couples in various states of undress), take part in tableaux reminiscent of certain orientalist paintings by Ingres.

Varieties of love and passion are what they re-enact, the poetry sounding very arcadian. It deals with the rhythms of passion in terms of the waterwheel in a vision of paradise. Less effective, the second part attacks certain aspects of what is treated as American decadence. The poetry is certainly magnificent, and the excellent performers illuminate much of it, but their sensuality at times appears too blatant.

Mario Relich

THE SCOTSMAN



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