



Selected SFIAF Review Quotes 2003-11

Even in a city known for its counterculture, this festival is eclectic. **New York Times**

A huge gift from the festival to the city, a must-see for students and practitioners of all sorts of theater, physical performance, early music and/or Christianity or the esoterica of spiritual transcendence through art. **SF Chronicle**

...you realized how pressing is the need for the San Francisco International Arts Festival.....Here was an international caliber company in its Bay Area debut (and only U.S. engagement this season) bringing something different and, in one case, extraordinary to the local scene. What else, you may ask, is a performing arts festival for? **Voice of Dance**

...another gem in the festival's multifaceted crown of three weeks of local and international theater, music and dance...Shows such as this...don't come to the Bay Area often enough. **SF Chronicle**

At a time when it might seem impossible to launch a major arts event..... The San Francisco International Arts Festival has roared back. **San Jose Mercury News**

SFIAF.....has become an indispensable showcase for collaborative work by leading Bay Area artists and their peers across all manner of geographical, cultural and disciplinary borders. **360.com**

The upshot was the most engrossing contemporary opera-dance-theater I have encountered in ages. **artssf.com**

And it represents an enormous potential boon.....beyond the sheer pleasure it brings, in terms of the significant benefits of breaking through the shell of our provincial isolation and offering chances for artistic cross-fertilization. **SF Chronicle**

Depending on whom you ask, the Bay Area art world is either a major world center for creative innovation or a self-referential backwater prone to tunnel vision. If it's possible for it to be both simultaneously, the multidisciplinary San Francisco International Arts Festival is well poised to address the dichotomy. **SF Weekly**

At times the Bay Area can seem like a cultural backwater, stagnating like a swamp. Then suddenly a hurricane sweeps through.....I feel fortunate to have seen...companies from such diverse places performing...in such different styles and yet sensing they are all grappling with the same issue of living in the world and seeking, if not answers, at least new ways of looking at the problems. **Dance Insider**

The San Francisco International Arts Festival...one of the best bets for global theatre this summer. **American Theatre Magazine**



*Last year's San Francisco International Arts Festival was one of the best performing arts events. **Theatre Bay Area Magazine***

*Andrew Wood...realize[d] his dream of the San Francisco International Arts Festival. The performances by the... companies he brought to the Bay Area...were spectacular successes. **SF Bay Guardian***

*No previous attempt at a general arts festival in this city ever promised or accomplished so much. **Voice of Dance***

*{Akram Khan's} "Kaash" was the antepenultimate in a brief, brilliant series, the San Francisco International Arts Festival. **Dance View Times.***

*It's a perfect conceptual fit with the theme of this year's San Francisco International Arts Festival, *The Truth in Knowing/Now: A Conversation across the African Diaspora*... "Departure and Arrival" made a perfectly thoughtful and thought-provoking way to kick off the festival's jam-packed 11 days on Wednesday night. **SF Chronicle***

*This writer was totally enthralled and down right floored by the action displayed on stage..... What I witnessed was total entertainment packaged into one big ball of "pyrotechnic-like" feats of athleticism, dance, musicianship and theater. The globetrotting French trained, Guinean nouveau cirque company, Circus Baobab made its exclusive US debut at SFIAF. **From the Blog of RJ Hipster***

*Striking images of pain and loss, of conflicts ancient and immediate, ethnic and political, and a passionate yearning for peace radiate from Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani of Peru's "Santiago" at Project Artaud Theater.....The rare chance to see Yuyachkani, long one of South America's leading troupes, is a gift in itself. **SF Chronicle***

*Thank you, Andrew Wood for the SF International Arts Festival, the successful negotiation of visas for all and especially for Sasha Waltz & Guests. **CultureVulture.net***

*With the swift, sharp strokes of masterful physical performance, the broad comedy of a rural folktale turns into a potent, even shocking look at the soul-wrenching inhumanity of war. **SF Chronicle***

*The popular Korean folk tale of an angel coming to earth and discovered by an aging mother and her son, as re-told by Cho-In Theatre, is a testament to the craft and discipline necessary for such a performance. Brought by the extraordinary talent of Cho-In, the folk tale speaks without words, transcending the barriers of language. **SF Examiner***

*"Angel" is a gut-wrenching anti-war manifesto, and all of it realized without the use of a single word. **Dance View Times***

*More, please, more! **Ballet.Co.UK***