



We see how powerful soldiers' bodies are – and how fragile BRIAN SLATER

Arts reviews

DANCE

5 Soldiers

YEOMANRY HOUSE, LONDON

★★★★★

For dancers as well as soldiers, injury is a risk of the job. Subtitled "The body is the frontline", Rosie Kay's 5 Soldiers is a forceful reminder of how powerful these bodies are – and how fragile.

Created in 2010, 5 Soldiers is an extraordinary exploration of modern war as a physical experience. We watch Kay's soldiers as they drill, go off duty, go into combat and cope with the aftermath. The wider war is hinted at in a crackle of broadcast news, but the stripped-down production focuses on these

soldiers, these bodies.

Kay starts with experience – she drilled with soldiers and visited rehabilitation centres as she prepared for the work. This UK tour is presented in association with the British Army, performed in drill halls and barracks across the country.

There is a documentary

precision to scenes where the soldiers wait, bored or driven to action, and an explosive authenticity to the drill scenes. There are no macho heroics here, only clear-eyed observation of acts and consequences.

The dancers flog themselves through the military moves, then peel away into more personal solos – into fears and fantasies. The one woman is determined to be as tough as her male colleagues, to need no help. One man spins through a waltz with an imagined partner, until his ballroom hold morphs into holding a rifle. In downtime, rivalries and sexual tensions emerge, only to be tamped down in time for combat.

The unit wait around a square of light, ready for a parachute jump that becomes a skydiving dance – a moment of floating freedom before they hit the ground. The discipline and fear of the action scenes is built from how hard those bodies have to work: crouching, turning, working over the ground again and again.

The most powerful scenes in 5 Soldiers concern injury and rehabilitation. One soldier is sent flailing and turning by an explosion.

Again, Kay makes the experience of injury feel viscerally real. The legs of dancer Duncan Anderson are strapped up to represent amputation, leaving him struggling to walk on his kneecaps.

His recovery is a fight with his body – his falls, his shaky balance. He forces himself against gravity and exhaustion as he finds new ways, not just of moving but of reclaiming his identity as a soldier.

Touring to 14 October (5Soldiers.co.uk)
ZOE ANDERSON
THE INDEPENDENT

CLASSICAL

Prom 73

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON

★★★★★

Two years ago Andras Schiff held this auditorium in thrall with a performance of the Goldberg Variations: now he's done the same with the first book of the Well-Tempered Clavier, a work never played at a Prom before. Schiff sees these pieces in terms of colour, beginning with the snow-white innocence of the opening prelude in C major, and culminating in the B minor fugue which for him is in the pitch-black key of death.

There was indeed a crystalline transparency in the first prelude, a metronomic regularity which was in no way mechanical, and for a while he maintained these qualities, playing with a caressing touch and going at an unusually gentle pace.

Despite its dramatic and emotional restraint, this was the most riveting performance of the work I have ever heard. Schiff delivered the endlessly walking line of the final prelude with majestic assurance, and if the gravely enigmatic final fugue denoted death, it was death of an entirely serene kind.

MICHAEL CHURCH

THEATRE

One Day, Maybe

HULL CITY CENTRE

★★★★★

The Gwangju uprising was a pivotal moment in South Korea's ongoing transformation to democracy. Hundreds if not thousands of students died when it was brutally quelled by the country's military generals.

Created by immersive theatre company dreamthinkspeak and staged in an eerie disused office block in the heart of the City of Culture, this provocative and frankly chilling production takes us back to the tragic events of those days.

The premise is that the audience is invited to inspect a range of new products by Kasang – a fictional Asian conglomerate newly arrived in the UK. Tablet in hand and shepherded by a team of actors including Min-hee Yeo as the slick young chief executive and Mee-young Kim as a good-natured grandma, we first experience hi-tech modern South Korea with its dazzling malls, virtual-reality shopping and incessant K-pop.

A real life video game then gives way to something much more sinister as we find ourselves in



'One Day, Maybe' is a chilling production by immersive theatre group dreamthinkspeak
LEOLINTANG

an abandoned police station amid signs of violent interrogation.

The malign presence of the state – old and new – is brilliantly conjured and contrasted with the subtle beauty of the ancient

shamanist culture. The spirits of the young people that died in the name of freedom pervade this haunting experience.

To 1 October (hull2017.co.uk)
JONATHAN BROWN

First Chance

Opening this week

JAZZ

Sounds of Denmark

PIZZA EXPRESS JAZZ, LONDON W1
On the bill are legendary percussionist Marilyn Mazur and the Afrobeat-meets-Mingus joys of Kutimangoes. (020 7437 9595) opens Wed

TALKS & POETRY

Budliffest

VARIOUS VENUES, BUDLEIGH SALTERN
With Hilary Mantel, David Kynaston, Sarah Perry, Tim Pears and Sophie Hannah. (01395 445275) opens Wed

DANCE

Touch Wood

THE PLACE, LONDON WC1
A late summer season of new dances and works-in-progress. (020 7121 1100) opens Wed

VISUAL ARTS

Albert Moore: Of Beauty and Aesthetics

YORK ART GALLERY
The first monographic show since the memorial exhibition in 1894 of York-born Albert Joseph Moore, one of the leading artists of the Aesthetic movement, who prioritised mood, colour harmony and beauty of form over subject matter to create art for art's sake. Featuring more than 20 paintings and watercolours, including examples of Moore's youthful Pre-Raphaelite works as well as the classical figures of his mature style. **Touring to 14 October (5Soldiers.co.uk)**

FILM

Wind River

15. TAYLOR SHERIDAN, 107 MINS
The third part in actor-turned-screenwriter Taylor Sheridan's "modern frontier trilogy" (after *Sicario* and *Hell or High Water*) and his first film as director is a murder mystery with a strong lyrical and philosophical streak that will appeal to fans of Scandinavian noir. Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen star as a wildlife ranger and an FBI agent investigating the death of an 18-year-old Native American woman in a very bleak and icy Wyoming. **Nationwide release**

It

15. ANDRES MUSCHIETTI, 135 MINS
There's a double dose of nostalgia in this tremendous new Stephen King adaptation. The film manages the feat of being very evocative and, on occasion, quite terrifying, harking back to the great King adaptations of the 1980s. It unfolds over one summer in a small American town that is cursed – every 27 years, a fiendish clown reappears to harvest some new flesh. **Nationwide release**

Arts agenda

THE CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS YOU HAVE TO SEE

God's Own Country

15. FRANCIS LEE, 105 MINS
There's a lot of mud, saliva and vomit in *God's Own Country*, which is inevitably being billed as rural Yorkshire's answer to *Brokeback Mountain*. It's the story of the gay love affair between a young farmer and a Romanian migrant worker. In its later stages, the film turns into a conventional love story, but it is, nonetheless, a highly impressive debut feature, bleak and lyrical by turns and with very fine performances by its two young leads, Alec Secareanu and Josh O'Connor. **Limited release**

TALKS & POETRY

Nairn Book & Arts Festival

VARIOUS VENUES
With Hardeep Singh Kohli, J David Simons, Malachy Tallack, Simon Mawer, Nicola Upson, Louise Welsh, Alan Bissett and Charlie Phillips. (nairnfestival.co.uk) to Sun

AN Wilson

VARIOUS VENUES
The biographer discusses his new book, *Charles Darwin: Victorian Mythmaker*, a controversial reappraisal of the father of evolution by natural selection. *Blackwell, Oxford (01865 792792) tonight 7pm; Guildhall, Shrewsbury (01691 662244) Wed 7.30pm*

An Evening with David Sedaris

BRIGHTON DOME
The American humorist gives his own inimitable take on the world and talks about his new book, *Theft by Finding*, a selection of thoughts and observations from the diaries he kept between 1977 and 2002. (myticket.co.uk) tonight 7.30pm

COMEDY

Damien Power

SOHO THEATRE, LONDON W1
The yawning gap between dreams and reality is the theme of this ace Aussie's *Utopia: Now in 3D* – the gap, say, between imagining yourself a stand-up after a few pints and actually doing it; or between the dream of racing cars and the greasy reality of slogging the circuit, as Power's brother does. An engaging, insightful and very funny hour. (020 7478 0100) tonight

POP

John Murry

VARIOUS VENUES
Tupelo's John Murry continues to dredge deep wells of suffering for sublime song on his follow-up to 2012's devastating *The Graceless Age*. Though evidence of personal redemption is in scant supply on *A Short History of Decay*, Murry's

songs of love lost and death compensate with tremendous reserves of gravitas and beauty. *Talking Heads, Southampton (seetickets.com) tonight; Albert, Brighton (wegottickets.com) Wed; Tunnels, Bristol (wegottickets.com) Thu; Castle Hotel, Manchester (wegottickets.com) Fri*

Charly Bliss

VARIOUS VENUES
Buzz-saw riffs, ebullient tunes, beatific vocals, biting lyrics: Eva Hendricks leads the fresh-faced New York quartet in full-pelt tribute to indie-punk-pop like they used to make it, sometime in the 1990s. Wall-to-wall melodies propel *Guppy*, a debut album that channels the

angst and longings of youth with the deceptive melodic simplicity of the truly sophisticated. *Club Ifor Bach, Cardiff (seetickets.com) tonight; Old Blue Last, London EC2 (dice.fm) Wed; Parr Street Studios, Liverpool (seetickets.com) Fri*

John Legend

VARIOUS VENUES
"They say sing what you know," sings John Legend on his latest album. Legend does just that on *Darkness and Light*, an album where conflicts of the personal and political kind coalesce with conviction around his rich soul voice. He's still good with the ballads, but this is a more questioning Legend than we're used to: and it suits him. *02 Arena, London SE10 (seetickets.com) tonight; First Direct Arena, Leeds (seetickets.com) Fri*

Chastity Belt

VARIOUS VENUES
"You should take some time to figure out your life," sings Julia Shapiro, who does just that on Chastity Belt's third album. Washington's four women of party-hard post-punk enrich the goofball excesses of old with

hints of self-reflection on *I Used to Spend So Much Time Alone*, a shift executed without any signs of strain on their luminous all-indie pitch. *Bodega, Nottingham (seetickets.com) tonight; Green Door Store, Brighton (seetickets.com) Wed; Garage, London N5 (wegottickets.com) Thur*

DANCE

Hofesh Shechter Company

SADLER'S WELLS, LONDON EC1
In his latest work, *Grand Finale*, Hofesh Shechter explores a world in freefall, with 10 dancers, onstage musicians and a gig atmosphere. (020 7863 8000) to Sat

OPERA

The School of Jealousy

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE, LONDON SW1
Bampton Classical Opera continues its trawl through forgotten 18th-century operas with the first modern UK revival of the popular 1778 comedy by Mozart's rival (and supposed murderer) Antonio Salieri, directed by Jeremy Gray and conducted by Anthony Kraus. (020 7222 1061) tonight 7pm

THEATRE

The Addams Family: the Musical Comedy

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM
A brilliantly revised and re-energised version of Andrew Lippa's 2010 Broadway hit, based on the original cartoons by Charles Addams. Lippa's musical is a truly witty and exhilarating show, full of satirical energy, hilarious one-liners, and superb musical numbers, all driven along by Andrew Hilton's impressive live eight-piece band. (atgickets.com) ends Sat

Mary Rose

PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE
Richard Baron's rich and thoughtful production of JM Barrie's ghost story gives every strand of this strange period piece its full human weight, with Alan Steele repeating his performance – perfected in Pitlochry's 2014 production of *The Admirable Crichton* – as an onstage Barrie steering his characters towards resolution. Its style is old-fashioned, its mood sometimes both ghoulish and sentimental. (01796 484 626) to 11 Oct

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