

## Spanish Train, Tramway, Glasgow



MARY BRENNAN May 30 2006 GLASGOW HERALD

There have, of course, been explosive acts of terrorism closer to home – but Reckless Sleepers have looked abroad, to the Madrid train bombings of 2004, as a starter-motif for this work-in-progress, co-commissioned by Tramway as part of its Surge season.

On-stage, in the semi-gloom, is a man – Mole Wetherell – in a scraggy fur-fabric bear costume. (The head is elsewhere, beside a line of tomatoes). And there's a girl (Leen Dewilde) in a white dress – although the programme and the text will say it's red – and only one shoe, which is red. The other shoe has already met us, abandoned outside the space. A little hint of haste, panic maybe, that primes us for the piece itself. For what Wetherell and Dewilde are pursuing – in fantastical, albeit deconstructed, ways – is the nature of fear and how it can control, limit, sadden and chill our lives. They are, right off, an unlikely twosome: girl and dancing bear, locked in a curious interdependency that loops and shifts as they try to combat an intangible aura of danger.

A programme note tells us Mole and Leen started off with spectacular ambitions, dreaming of 30 dancing bears on-stage, but that might have been a tad Busby Berkeley. With just the two of them, trying to piece together the parts of their disjointed performance, they emerge as vulnerable – like the tomatoes that increasingly litter the stage – and prone to the fits of defensive aggression that allow fear to prevail. A wry, mischievous, lyrical and perceptive witness to the times we live in.