



The Nightwatchman De Theaterkrant ****

A youth theatre show in which, in the first fifteen minutes, nothing happens, nothing is said and everything moves precisely and excruciatingly slowly. There is just one actor who plays as naturally as possible, no music, and a set that is comprised of nine black and white tv screens on which nothing very exceptional can be seen. Het Filiaal Theatermakers pulls it off and, by doing away with all stimuli, kids and their parents are all focused on the details. It is unheard of.

What follows is just as surrealistic as poetic. Using ingenious, for the most part, live, filmed object theatre, we witness the amazing adventures of The Nightwatchman, whereby a speeding train, a remarkable forest and the sea are created before our eyes with the simplest of resources. We see how it's made yet both young and old are fascinated by the theatrical reality that is created and we nearly get seasick from the waves that aren't at all there.

What makes this show so good is, in the first place, Noël van Santen's acting. Without us actually being aware of it, director Ramses Graus mixes reality with the dream world by speeding up and slowing down the tempo. And even if there's nothing to see, Gábor Tarján's compositions evoke enormous tension.

All of this is more than clever. This show is exciting not by actually being exciting but merely through suggestion; it is exceptionally funny without going for outright laughs; it is full of action and unbelievably inert. *The Night Watchman* shows the everyday rut of adults, mixes it with their daydreams and appeals to a child's imagination. And all without a single word. It'll leave you speechless.