

The Firebird Ball * * * *

Offley Works, London

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Inspired by Romeo and Juliet and Stravinsky's The Firebird, the latest installation-cum-performance piece from Punchdrunk opens up a secret, dreamy world of passion, tragedy and fairy tale lurking behind the facade of a derelict factory. In a dark red, canopied room, whose ceiling is supported by gnarled trees, a live band plays; in another room, feathers fall from filing cabinets, incense drifts across an altar and the Capulets partake of a meal in stony silence. In an ivy-clad nook, a funeral is taking place; in the living room, two young men flirt and quarrel.

Donning a mask, you undertake a solo journey through many rooms across several floors, creating your own narrative as you go. You could choose to follow a particular character or simply wander from room to room. This is not a performance of Romeo and Juliet or The Firebird; it is more like an echo, something familiar yet strange carried to you on the breeze. There are no words, but some fabulous choreography and a witty use of music as you undertake your theatrical adventure. You might witness Romeo and Juliet's first meeting, watch Mercutio's death or find yourself in an eerie sarcophagus-like space with only the stone statues of lost princes for company. Or you might not stumble across any of those things.

The experience repays the effort you put into it: all it requires is patience, time, imagination and a sense of adventure. Some secrets are not unlocked unless you look for them, and anyone hurrying through will be disappointed. In one large room I found myself alone with a masked imp with whom I played hide-and-seek and a game of cards. On returning to the same space 20 minutes later, I was astonished to find it full of dancing couples as if at a ball. Punchdrunk put the wonder back into theatre.

· Until March 27. Box office: 020-8658 8341.