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## THEATRE LISTINGS

### William Blake's Divine Humanity

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Dir: Tim Bruce, Monia Giovannangeli (choreograph, Vanessa Payer-Kumar.  
Cast: Tim Bruce, Deborah Eckman, Monia Giovannangeli, Carl Johan Haggman, Marja Merisalo, Alexandra Maitland Hume, Mirjam Varma, Eva Neubauer, Sergio Otero, Francesca Panariti, Vanessa Payer-Kumar, Nicolette Renault, Adda van Zanden, Leo Vertunni, Reinhardt Winter

**Description:** A dramatisation of the life and work of William Blake, marking the 250th anniversary of the poet and artist's birth. A theatrical journey through his books and a series of tableaux of his engravings from The Book Of Job is interspersed with major episodes in Blake's life. Presented by Theatre Of Eternal Values.

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### Reader reviews (22)

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"If you want to be transported to heaven for a couple of hours you must go and see the play of 'William Blake's Divine Humanity'..as if to clasp the end of a golden thread the art of William Blake takes us all on a journey from the dark streets of his London, through hell by the grace of the divine vision of his imagination to be awoken from our slumber to share the creative vision of his joy and liberation as his angels dance in heaven before us to celebrate their power of pure love and beauty while his poetic voice moves to enchant our soul, the international group of actors succeed in their task to express, celebrate and integrate the divine vision of his art, as if the images of his paintings come alive with his brush strokes to light up the stage before us to celebrate his sublime eternal values...truly a theatrical performance that breaks new ground for the good of all our creative evolution and collective consciousness as if to lay the foundation stone of the Spirit in our green and pleasant land of Albion."

**- Colin Heinsen, London**

There's still time to catch an amazing stage production about William Blake on his 250th anniversary before its London season comes to an end. Although William Blake is hailed as a genius and his "Jerusalem" has gained the status of an anthem, sung at football matches as well as churches, how much do people really know about the man? The play "Divine Humanity" gives us an insight to Blake's thinking and looks at some of the key moments of an extraordinary life. The cast of the delightfully named "Theatre of Eternal Values" clearly believe in his greatness and act their hearts out. It is rare to see a play of such profundity in the West End these days. If you've not been to it I'd bag a ticket and get down to Charing Cross whilst you have the chance.

**- Les Martin, Windsor UK**

The international company TEV has done a commendable job of bringing Blake's poetry and paintings closer to the hearts of general public to awaken yet unfound side of their own spiritual connection evoking pure emotions to the highest degree that most people including me went dumbfounded with tears in the eyes. It left me in silence and peace with a great reverence towards a sacred heart, whose work has been not recognised in the way it should have been in his own life time. Thanks to TEV for bringing William Blake alive again, to the reach of everyone helping to build Jerusalem that William Blake has prophesised. Play is also highly professional with a added value of universal nature of art that depicted unity and integrity of the world in one umbrella, with different accents of English emitting sweetness of expressions bringing people from different cultures and countries singing with same voice of LOVE and DEDICATION towards the art. Enjoy yourselves this play and please don't miss it.

**- Mrs.M.Waggott, Farnborough**

What a wonderfully uplifting evening, highly recommended. Obviously a huge

amount of research has been done here, combined with excellent performances from the cast. Interesting to pick out the different accents as this is an international theatre company. The staging & choreography/dancing was excellent, also beautiful costumes, and wonderful music, including a new and delightful interpretation of the well known 'Jerusalem', which was written by one of the cast members. I think I prefer this version to what we all think of 'the original' tune set to Blake's words. A short run so go and see it while you can.

**- Helen King, Elstree, UK**

This was a huge performance in a small, delightful theatre. Each scene was a gem strung along the "golden thread".

The way the scenes dovetailed, between the story of Job as represented by Blake and the life of Blake himself, was truly innovative. The costumes, so apparently simple yet so true to those portrayed in Blake's prints and engravings, seemed to bring his works to life in an enchantingly ethereal way. Perfectly complementing all was the 'gel' of the blissful percussion as the performance flowed from pathos to joy to humour.

It would be difficult to imagine a more fitting celebration of the man who gave us what will surely one day be our true National Anthem, Jerusalem.

BRAVO

**- P.M, Liverpool,UK**

I didn't know much about Blake's work but always wanted to find out more. This play illustrates his life and also sheds some light on his beautiful engravings. I would like to see it again. We have such a great writer and illustrator in William Blake, we should be proud of him.

**- Philippa Newman, Lichfield Staffordshire**

An amazing play, seems to me a masterpiece in every aspect, from writing, acting, directing, light, sound, and dance. It helped me to understand Blake, his life and work, much better. I found it quite clear to follow, with good flow, but most important it really touches your deeper self. I found myself on a path of inner journey, overwhelmed with emotions, shedding secret tears on quite a few occasions, feeling quite transformed by the end of it. And also I felt that Blake's essence has been conveyed to the public in an amazing way, that even after the show and days to come I could feel the subtle presence of his magic in my attention. It is a must see, not only for Blake lovers, but also for those who feel they never understood him.

**- Cristina Arama, London, UK**

This is a well thought out play dealing with both the artwork and writings of this English author. It is probably the first time that Blake has been dealt with like this, with many of his works, seen as prophetic, considered in the light of how they affect the ordinary man.

The setting and costumes reflect both the era and the tone of both his London and his paradise, with some really hair-raising moments not out of fear, but of an apt and stunning illustration of what Blake meant with his words, here put into action for us on stage. Well worth the ticket.

**- Fari Bradley, London**

I had heard that William Blake had been insane, but now I can see that he was a genius. 'Divine Humanity', like a divine, universal vision brought to the stage, has revealed the profound wisdom and beauty of a long misunderstood prophet. I won't hesitate to return to London when this moving performance repeats on a larger stage.

**- Edward Saugstad, Vienna, Austria**

Beautifully done, every moment a joy, gave me a much greater understanding of William Blake and what he was doing. Not to be missed. A wonderful opportunity to pay homage to celebrate this great personality at the 250th anniversary of his birth.

**- Sue, London**

Wonderful play, I suggest everyone should go to see it.

**- Gianni Rossi, London - UK**

William Blake's Divine Humanity is incredibly loyal to Blake's texts and message, being at the same time an innovative and daring way of making Blake's poetry accessible to contemporary audience. It is a must see for any Blake enthusiast and for anyone with a cultural interest. It touches one quite deeply and stays with you long afterwards.

**- Alexandra Banerjee, Dunedin, New Zealand**

This is a moving, highly ambitious and beautifully realised production. It works so successfully perhaps because it is so completely true to the essential, eternal spirit of Blake's message for mankind. It is a rare pleasure indeed to enjoy such a fine collective of international talent, and the gravitas of the content was for me wonderfully offset by the ethereal delight and sensual pleasure of the inspired and revelatory use of sets / music / lighting. I saw "Divine Humanity" two nights ago and it has stayed with me since like a beautiful dream, like a glimpse of eternity. What a splendid 250th birthday present! Rave on Mr Blake! You would surely most heartily approve of it yourself!

**- Raymond Gorman, London**

I have seen the play twice and am going again to see it a third time.

This is a marvellous piece of work by an International Theatre Company. From an aesthetical point of view this is most beautifully done. Beautiful music and beautiful dancing accompany the beauty of Blake's words. The content is superb and I love that most of the text is virtually William Blake speaking; which words on earth could be more profound than Mr Blake's inspired words? This play has a depth that is very rarely encountered in contemporaneous theatre. I can recommend this play equally to those who love Blake already, as well as those who want to know about him, as they will fall in love with him during the play.

The play brings across an enormous compassion for this poor, misunderstood great artist. Never before have I seen anyone reflect so clearly the way this poor great soul was misunderstood by his contemporaries.

Unfortunately very little has been done in England to honour this divine soul. Blake does not even have a gravestone and his grave was lost for decades had it not recently been rediscovered by a couple of William Blake fans.

This play is a very important milestone in English history towards recognising the greatness of this prophet and angelic soul that was William Blake.

Congratulations to all those who have contributed to this pioneering jewel of work that makes so much justice to this great soul.

**- Dr Katya Rubia, Uk, London**

I have seen the play twice and am going again to see it a third time. This is a marvelous piece of work by an International Theatre Company. From an aesthetical point of view this is most beautifully done. Beautiful music and beautiful dancing accompany the beauty of Blake's words. The content is superb and I love that most of the text is virtually William Blake speaking; which words on earth could be more profound than Mr Blake's inspired words? This play has a depth that is very rarely encountered in contemporaneous theatre. I can recommend this play equally to those who love Blake already, as well as those who want to know about him, as they will fall in love during the play.

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**- Dr Katya Rubia, Uk, London**

Excellent play, very moving and inspiring. Has to be seen. Opportunity not to be missed.

**- Yolanta, London**

From the first beautifully sung notes of the Bard's introduction, to the exquisite sadness of the final scene, I was fascinated, moved and inspired. If you think Blake is difficult then come and discover his simple brilliance. If you think you know his work well then come ready to be surprised. The Prophet William Blake walks London's streets once more!

**- Barry West, Cambridge UK**

Extraordinary! Absolutely worth seeing! Brilliant acting, beautiful music and fantastic choreography! What a fresh breeze in the theatre world!

**- Sia, UK**

What an amazing play! A must see!

**- Dan Firth, Coventry**

This is an incredibly moving, highly ambitious, beautifully realized and often inspired production. It works so successfully perhaps because it is completely unpretentious and 100% true to the essential, eternal spirit of Blake's message for mankind. It is a rare pleasure indeed to enjoy such an egoless collective of international talents, and the gravitas of the content was for me wonderfully offset by the ethereal delight and sensual pleasure of the amazing and revelatory use of sets / music / lighting. I saw "Divine Humanity" two nights ago and it has stayed with me since like a beautiful dream, like a glimpse of eternity. What a splendid 250th birthday present! Rave on Mr Blake! You would surely most heartily approve of this fantastic production! GO SEE NOW!!!!!!

**- Raymond Gorman, London**

I saw "Divine Humanity" last night and was greatly impressed by it! It offers a very complete portrait of Blake the artist and prophet and is rich and multi-layered. Not only that but out all of the Blake productions I have seen that try to convey the complex metaphysics of his writing, this one goes the furthest. Delving into areas of Blake's work where no theatrical productions (that I know of) have gone before. Daring to tackle Blake's colossal and mind-blowing epic poem "Jerusalem" and getting to the heart of it magnificently. Opening up this casket of secrets for the benefit of all.

For even though the subject matter of "Divine Humanity", with its depictions of the realm of the human spirit, is complex, it is delivered by the multi-national cast with such warmth, humor and poetry, that even foreign friends of mine, with little grasp of English, came away from the show - speechless - some of them moved to tears.

I can not recommend the show enough and urge everyone to attend - especially with the 250th anniversary of Blake's birth.

**- Jeremy Clancy, London**

Very unusual play on William Blake. Great costumes, lighting and effects with back drops showing Blakes art which then come to life via the actors. Stirring battle between the forces of good & evil are portrayed as Albion is redeemed by Jerusalem. Very prophetic. Well worth a viewing. Unique and timely.

**- Konstanze Deistler, London**