



Lurking in The Loft

Devised and directed by
Elizabeth Morris

The Company:

Glynis Fletcher, John Fennel, Ryan Calder, Roger Perrin, Collette Marie,
Lauren Macdonald, Martin Twomey, David Earle, Hermione Cooper, Isobel Lawrence,
Isabelle Barker, Tia Hand, Laura Hayward, Rachel Twomey, Ernie Boxall, Charlie Auld,
Becky Thornton, Tom Scott, Juvan Gowreeswaran, Sandra Ingram.

Director	Libby Morris
Stage manager	Kim Green
Assistant stage manager	Viki Betts
Design concept	Kim Green and Elizabeth Morris
Lighting design	Robin Boyd
Sound design	Loft Technical Team
Wardrobe	Helen Brady
Make Up	Lauren Macdonald
Build and dressing	Zoe Skinner, Richard Moore, David Beardmore, Enna Coates, Liz Robson
Press and publicity	Anna Laycock
Photography	Richard Smith
Artistic director	Sue Moore
Theatre technician	Kimberlee Green
Advertising/design	Ammac Design Limited
Programme	Jonathan Gurnson
Website	Dann Hanks

Special thanks to Matt Chamberlain - videographer
Age guideline: 12 years +
The performance includes strobe lighting effects.

Leamington Observer

The Loft Theatre in Leamington is offering an unusual way to get your 'fright fix' this Halloween. Matthew Salisbury went along to investigate.

The popularity of Halloween – particularly among the young – seems to go from strength to strength. And it's this love of the gruesome and scary that the Loft is catering for in its highly inventive offering *Lurking in The Loft*.

In a highly innovative step, the theatre has turned itself into a walk-through nightmarish experience, daring its audience to take a stroll through a very dark tale.

Those brave enough to go along are led through a series of well-staged scenes gradually learning more about a macabre tale of missing and murdered girls until the grim reveal at the end.

Credit must go too to the lighting department. The nooks and crannies of the theatre's backstage area are all transformed beautifully.

The Loft has searched its costume, make-up and props resources well. This is a fun feast for the senses with some great gore that modern Halloween fans will love.

Devised and directed by Elizabeth Morris, the experience features a wonderfully committed company drawing on some theatre stalwarts and a very good crop of younger members.

At just under half an hour from the first uncomfortable welcome to the final emergence back into the light it's also perfectly timed.

With Halloween filling so many shop shelves, TV schedules, pub theme nights and, of course, coming to your own doorstep on Wednesday, you might think you'd had enough of all things spooky. The engagingly fresh approach of this experience at The Loft should be sufficient to breathe a bit of life back into it.

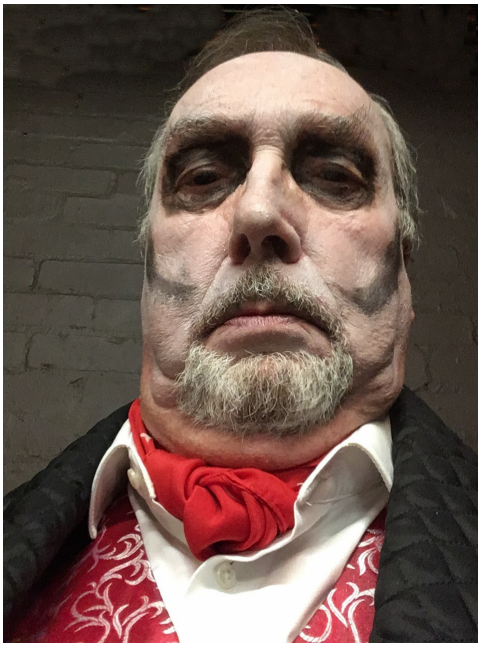
Leamington Courier

Reviewer: Nick Le Mesurier

Down in the cellars something stirs. A door slams, a scream is heard, a shadow passes – but there's no-one there. Theatres are amongst the most haunted places on earth: all those ghosts of characters drifting on and off stage, those actors long gone, whose performances resonate down the years, those strange atmospheres. And then there are the patrons, those people hidden in the wings, who have invested in the strange resurrections of words and scenes whose origins are forgotten but which live on in the imagination. The very atmosphere of a theatre reeks of things that have passed.

So it is in *Lurking at The Loft*, The Loft Theatre's latest show, which takes us on a tour of places hidden from most of us mere mortals; the shadowy basement rooms haunted by strange beings, some more dead than alive, where the magic is made. In small groups we are taken through a maze of corridors where the unwary guest might find him or herself lost. We hear of the terrible deaths at the hands of the man dubbed The Leamington Lurker, whose macabre fancies bestowed the town's finest theatre with props and costumes. Our guides are men and women driven mad by who knows what horrors? Zombies lurk in the corridors, there's a woman with a noose for a necklace, and our reward for our courage is a macabre feast served up by ghouls with a taste for flesh.

Elizabeth Morris's recreation of Halloween thrills is a clever piece of chicanery delivered promenade style that delves deep into the very fabric of the theatre. Drawing on some of the younger members of The Loft's crew, it is perhaps more intriguing than genuinely terrifying, though I wouldn't recommend it to small children or those of an especially nervous disposition. It leaves a nice frisson of fear, rather more palpable than most of the plastic tat that is sold to acknowledge our day of the dead, the more real for being performed live – or dead.



The Theatre Manager



The Leamington Lurker

