

PRESS RELEASE

CHURCHES ALERT TO SEX TRAFFICKING ACROSS EUROPE

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THE EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL, PLEASANCE COURTYARD (VENUE 33)

Review of Freefall Theatre's Dynamic Production 'Not for Sale' sponsored by Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking Across Europe (CHASTE)

The Scotsman, August 24th 2007

“LET'S be honest, it's not easy to create powerful, emotive theatre in a tin box at the back of the **Pleasance**. There's the noise from outside, the fact that there's no off-stage area, not to mention the tiny performance space. But Freefall Theatre Company achieves this in its imaginative and impressive ensemble piece.

It's no whimsy either, tackling the subject of sex trafficking, this is a glimpse into a brutal and violent world, where women are routinely used and abused, lied to and exploited, and the cast convey it with depth and emotion.

The risk of taking on such a serious and complex subject is that the required theatricality could lead to a performance that is trite. But there's not a trace of that here. Combining physical theatre, puppetry and some of the most honest performances I've seen this Fringe, it's is a genuinely moving drama.

Working with anti-sex trafficking charity CHASTE, Freefall has built **Not for Sale** around the testimonies of women who have escaped the sex industry.

Their stories are synthesised into a multifaceted performance with simple yet ingenious props - a piece of Perspex as a window, and a tiny doll which is an alter ego, a comfort, a symbol of everything missing in the brutal world in which the women exist.

One of the most powerful scenes is when Marina asks a client for help. Having started off as friendly and even sympathetic, when Marina pleads with him for help, he balks, horrified, taking back his "tip" and telling her we all have to do things for money that we wouldn't really choose to do.

In that interaction lies the strength of this performance. Subtly and sensitively it confronts the harsh realities of an industry in which as many as 4,000 women in Britain work.”