SOME HISTORIC SOME HYSTERIC



CLEMENTE SOTO VELEZ COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION CENTER'S FLAMBOYANT THEATRE 107 SUFFOLK STREET (BTW DELANCEY AND RIVINGTON) NEW YORK, NY 10002



Some Historic/Some Hysteric visits the nexus of desire and madness. The multi-media theater piece, part entertainment, part exposition, uses a 19th century method for examining hysteria as the departure point of its theatrical conversation.

French psychiatrist Dr. Jean-Martin Charcot used his patients in a Parisian asylum for case studies in hysteria. Under the doctor's direction, patients performed in his lecture/demonstrations, isolating and acting out aspects of their disease for a curious audience. Nemeth and Mitrani refer to the photographic documentation of these lectures and they stretch the imagery to pull beauty from the grotesque.



A stark black and white set enhances the claustrophobia of emotional distress and brief flourishes of red costume pulse through the tableaux. A woman cries from the podium of a giant high-heeled shoe as a patient gesticulates silently from a spinning bed; a parade of characters including Freud and Saint Francis of Assisi appears, larger than life on video, reacting to the performance below them.

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