

STAGE:

Gen Up

A collaborative production between northern stage and Manchester based Quarantine, Geneva is a production scaling new heights.



The Geneva Spur starts at about 24,000 ft, just before the summit of Everest. At that sort of altitude, nothing is quite what it seems: you can hear an orchestra that isn't there, the Brocken Spectre projects your glowing image onto the clouds below and you see the waving arm of the dead man... Jane Arnfield's one women show was inspired by her climb to the Everest base camp and her interviews with climbers who had conquered the mountain without oxygen. Her questions raised yet more questions: if we don't take risks how do we explore? If we don't explore how do we test commitment? If we don't test our commitment how do we know the strength of our investment? Jane then developed the show with Richard Gregory,

artistic director of Quarantine, who last worked at northern stage with the 2002 installation piece Frank.

This resulting work explores love, mountaineering and hallucination; a journey from Base Camp to the Summit, investigating human limits in the extreme. To help achieve the effect the Playhouse will be totally transformed into a unique environment. Aiding this, film will be employed which was shot by Alex Elliot and John Alder, whose stunning work was recently seen in northern stage ensemble's Wings Of Desire.

It's all a long way from Julie Andrews' Climb Every Mountain. RM

Geneva is at the Newcastle Playhouse, 6th-17th January, 7.30pm, £8/£10. 0191 230 5151.