



# 'Scream in Blue' presents Japanese-style dance piece

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For something completely new and unique to the KC Fringe offerings this year, if you like dance, and are ready for a challenge, go see "Scream in Blue." an all dance offering by Confluence Theatre Company, now playing at The Arts Asylum.

The show is produced in a black box setting with very minimal props, no scenery, and only a synthesizer to produce the music for the dance. A troupe of six very talented performers with white face and body paint perform a piece that relies solely on the audience's imagination to discover the story and meaning behind each vignette.

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As a reviewer, I had reservations about this piece because I do not understand ballet or modern dance. I had not experienced Japanese dance so I admit my limitations in providing a sufficient review.

To me, the story reflects an afterlife of souls after their earthly life has passed. They awake in an after-life, but on a different and alternate plane. There, they begin, discover and move through that life-cycle where they learn about life and death, rebirth, the discovery of their “new” body parts, discover new pleasure and pain. Along with this, comes the innocent discovery of sex, intimacy and birth. The dance included all the humanistic elements and the innocence of a fresh start. They represent the *tabula-rosa* of new life and awareness—

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life/death/rebirth, pleasure/pain, body/stimulation/sex. The

show depicts the ongoing cycles of birth and afterlives.

“The Confluence Theatre Company has partnered with Kabuku Butoh to create a unique night of dance and theatre. *Scream in Blue* combines both metaphysical and emotional mindscapes with only the human body as a vehicle for expression. If you were captivated by the “Best of” Liminal State from 2017’s Fringe Festival.” (KC Fringe)



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Kitty Corum, Coleman Crenshaw, Connor Eastman, Kaitlin Gould, Erdin Schultz-Bever, and R. H. Willhoit dance the piece in the Butoh dance form that originated in Japan,

According to R.H. Willhout, one of the performers, he enjoyed hearing reactions to the piece afterward. He said people came away with different ideas and perspectives of how the piece stirred their thoughts.

Tags: “*Scream in Blue*” review, Arts Asylum, Kansas City Fringe Festival, Kansas City Theatre, Kansas City Performing Arts, Kansas City Arts & Entertainment