



A grand illusion

PICK OF THE NIGHT

Aurélia's Oratorio

7.30pm, Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6. All seats £9.

Tube: Hammersmith

Is theatre for children the new theatre for adults? That's the question you ask yourself as you're wafted along by the innocent charm of Aurélia's Oratorio. The 75-minute illusion-cum-circus show

begins with the lovely-looking Aurélia Thierrée (above) getting dressed inside a wardrobe. Her face appears from one drawer; her slender hands from another, and then her feet pop out, only they're all in the opposite order to the usual arrangement of head, hands and legs.

The show ends with a toy train somehow running through a hole in her tummy. In between come the sort of visual tricks that entrance the

pre-teens, only here, leave adults wide-eyed.

Part of the reason is that we've been so bludgeoned by big-scale circus and super-slick illusionists that Aurélia reminds us of our younger selves. Performed with charm by Aurélia and James Thierée (Charlie Chaplin's grandchildren), it is quiet and gentle, and even if that's not what children want, it's what many adults need. **Sarah Frater**
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