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Prostitution's uncomfortable truths in 'Traumboj' at CounterPulse



Lily Janiak | October 11, 2018 | Updated: October 12, 2018, 9:09 am



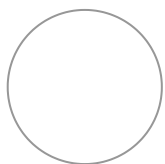
Daniel Hellmann in "Traumboj" at CounterPulse as part of Zürich Meets San Francisco: A Festival of Two Cities. Photo: Raphael Hadad

“These people, they know me; they know that I am happy; they know that I am responsible,” says Daniel Hellmann in his solo show, “Traumboy.” But then, “the moment they learn that I am a prostitute, they are so paralyzed by their vision of prostitution that it’s easier for them to withdraw the trust that they have had in me.”

The piece, playing for one night only at CounterPulse as part of Zürich Meets San Francisco: A Festival of Two Cities, comes from Hellmann’s own experience as a German sex worker. Whatever you believe about prostitution, prepare to have your assumptions challenged: What if it’s possible to like your job as a sex worker? What if the work can entail moments of startling human connection?

At the same time, Hellmann doesn’t gussy up or glamorize. He’s forthright about the myriad roles he plays, positioning his audiences as voyeurs, daring them to look honestly at their own sexual fantasies.

“Traumboy”: 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21. \$20-\$35. CounterPulse, 80 Turk St., S.F. 415-626-2060.
www.counterpulse.org



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