

# THE AUDIT

## (OR ICELAND, A MODERN MYTH)

### COMMENTS & REVIEWS

#### REVIEWS

“you can really sense is Proto-type Theatre’s burning anger and passion, as they have a lot of things they want to say. They want to jam pack as many politically related points and information as they possibly can within this precious hour of performance time.

**They are not holding back in the slightest. They are out to expose: inequality, corruption, injustice, greed, borrowing, dishonesty, market manipulation, insider trading, fraud, tax evasion, and the frustration, anxiety, and uncertainty of the public. They can and they will name and shame.**

The script utilises the device of dark humour and irony in an effectively sharp and witty manner. **The spoken word sections are intelligent, creative, and beautifully written.**

**Rachel Baynton and Gillian Lees are excellently in sync with one another, as they flick the pages of speech and deliver the next quantity of information from their lecterns. Their performances are subtly and suitably sinister.**

“To some people in the world, “money means anything you like”. When it comes to Proto-type Theatre though, the cultural value of their work is clearly more important.”

– Sam Lowe, The Reviews Hub  
<http://www.thereviewshub.com/the-audit-the-lowry-salford/>

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“The Audit is a razor sharp analysis of the 2008 global financial crisis... **A heartfelt and thought-provoking plea to wake up and look at what is going on around us.** An invitation to react and respond rather than just remain ignorant and accepting.

**Rachel Baynton and Gillian Lees are a great combination and perfect foil for each other.** Together they deftly create a strong emotional response evoking shock, anger and clarity around the facts while also subtly provoking awareness of our own acquiescence and willingness to be nurtured towards a false sense of security.

The performance includes original writing that contains some **beautiful spoken word and deftly, measured performance, blended with emotive new music and film.**

**The brilliance of Proto-type's approach is to engage, inform and entertain... they exude warmth and wit.** The clarity and insight here allows for the telling of a modern horror story of greed that resonates with age old folk stories that we should not forget.

**The Audit** is a chilling and telling reminder of what happens when we forget the lessons of the past ”

– Live Art Alive

<https://liveartalive.com/2018/03/02/the-audit-or-iceland-a-modern-myth/>

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\*\*\*\*\* “About two minutes into ‘The Audit’ by Proto-type Theatre I wished that I could get hold of [Jeremy] Hunt and nail his feet to the Norwich Arts Centre floor until this show was done

Unlike the utterances of many Tory ministers this was a piece of agitprop theatre based on clearly evidenced facts, analysing exactly how and why we are all being oppressed by the after-effects of unregulated banking corruption and failure.

the show was well attended and **beautifully presented by Rachel Baynton and Gillian Lees who gave us an elegant call to arms against the world of banking.**

The two performers did not look like a theatre company on tour. Immaculately dressed and with a pristine glass lectern apiece **they stood each side of a back projected screen with continuously changing images, often in rather amusing juxtapositions.** The collapse of the banking world in 2008 was set in the context of events in Iceland, where small banks found themselves hopelessly compromised with billions in unsupported debts.

**They showed us exactly how some business-driven deregulation in America led directly to the turmoil that has been used as an excuse for ‘austerity’ and destruction of public services by right wing governments for a decade since then.**

**The Audit, written and directed by Andrew Westerside, is a joyful and entertaining piece that gives a very clear understanding of how we got to where we are now.** In Iceland, the people rose in anger and took to banging their pots and pans in protest. It worked. The Government was thrown out, the bankers jailed and the country started its return to decency. **Rachel and Gillian gave us a**

**simple message at the end of their show – time to pick up those pots and pans** and follow the Icelanders in rebuilding a decent community.

If you get a chance to see this show don't miss it, even if you would normally avoid political theatre.”

– Julian Swainson, The Norwich Eye  
<http://norwicheye.co.uk/politics/norwich-eye-reviews-the-audit-at-nac/>

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**“The Audit defies the expected theatrical genres, utilising storytelling, spoken word and lecture styles to build a carefully structured exposé** on the world's banking bigwigs' nefarious engineering and advantage of the past century's economic crises. This is a TED talk with a kick.

This show is out to get the men, and the system, that put us where we are; dependent, implicated and trapped.

**The cast deftly switch back and forth through historical events and concepts to weave their story.**

The evening serves as an amusing, boggling socio-economic history lesson.”

- Anna Rose James, Arts York Webzine  
<https://www.artsyork.co.uk/the-audit-or-iceland-a-modern-myth-they-fing-knew/>

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\*\*\*\* **“With passion and vigour, Rachel Baynton and Gillian Lees tell the story of the 2008 financial crash while vividly transporting us back and forth over oceans and eras** to uncover and understand the global consequences of what is, for many, an abstract moment of history with significantly tangible repercussions.

**Powerful and intelligent use of film, animation, sound and props help to make this production compelling and engaging from start to finish, but Baynton and Lee's narration is incredibly impressive in its own right. Their chemistry feels authentic and dialogue bounces off one another comfortably and fluidly.**

**Andrew Westerside's writing and direction, and subtle use of humour and playfulness have a powerful impact when offset against political, economical and financial revelation and protest.**

Strength and collective power in the face of political adversity has never been more important, and the exploration of power and moral values on the stage is a powerful example of where art and politics intuitively intersect.”

– The Peg Review  
<https://thepegreview.com/2018/03/17/%E2%98%85%E2%98%85%E2%98%85%E2%98%85-a-powerful-pairing-of-economics-and-art/>

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\*\*\* “A play which goes into the details of the economics behind the 2008 banking crisis might sound like a pretty dull way to spend an evening, so **credit to Proto-type Theater for not shying away from this as a subject matter.**

The Audit is a mixture of spoken word, performance, soundscapes and videos. Despite this abundance of material on stage, it never feels as though the audience is being assaulted with information. This is no mean feat considering **the company communicates the economic details of the crisis in staggeringly in-depth detail. The wit and intelligence behind the spoken word sections really help here – I felt I could have listened to them for the full running time.**

– Upstaged Manchester

<https://upstagedmanchester.com/2018/03/01/review-audit-lowry-salford/>

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**“The Audit interrogates widely accepted narrative, flips it on its head... Proto-type Theater undresses the economics which brought the world to a standstill in 2008, and reveals where the real greed lay.”**

– The Norwich Radical

<https://thenorwichradical.com/2018/03/29/review-the-audit-or-iceland-a-modern-myth/>

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“The show incorporates verbatim text, film, music and animation – but it’s all about the words. From the promotional blurb which persuaded me to turn up to the spoken word delivery of Rachel Baynton and Gillian Lees, every word is executed to perfection. On stage, **it is the poetry of the performance which makes this such a stand-out show.**

**The attention to detail is huge. From the synchronicity of movement to the speech rhythms, the show is study in embodied research.**

This is Proto-type’s second flirtation with socio-political subjects following on from last year’s wonderful surveillance-themed A Machine They’re Secretly Building. This show seems bigger in scale, yet more intimate, relating the financial mess of the past two decades to the audience through the story of a young Icelandic girl and her grandfather. **It’s sublime storytelling.**

**For this type of contemporary performance, Proto-type sit at the top table in terms of engaging performance. But when it comes to the global socio-political subject matter, they are at the top of their game. The Audit is a superb example of performance theatre.”**

– The Long Lens

<https://longlens.wordpress.com/2018/03/02/review-the-audit-by-proto-type-theatre-at-the-lowry-salford/>

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“the co-ordination between both performers added real emphasis to the dialogue.”

- Nathalie Tolmie-Thomson, The Culture Vulture

<https://theculturevulture.co.uk/cultures/theatre/proto-type-theater-audit-iceland/>

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“**This is thoroughly entertaining, incisive, fact-based theatre** based on extensive research. It opens our eyes, makes us think and challenges us to question what we are told.

- Broadway World

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/uk-regional/article/Proto-type-Theater-Presents-THE-AUDIT-and-A-MACHINE-THEYRE-SECRETLY-BUILDING-20190212>

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“**Westerside’s 60-minute play asks how can a small island nation survive when it is going it alone with economic relationships?**”

- Charles Hutchinson, The York Press

<https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/17574681.for-brexit-britain-look-at-icelands-politics-says-new-play-the-audit/>

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## AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

@rotster: “So how did you spend your Friday evening? I spent mine listening to a fabulous poetic commentary on the financial crash, bankers, neoliberalism, Iceland and how everyday folk can change the world with pots and pans.”

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@AnnieBannister: “the use of language & poetry in this piece is superb!”

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@AnnieBannister: “Completely & utterly Blown Away by [#TheAudit](#) at [@CurveLeicester](#). This should be in every school, touring every 6th Form. An Intense, mesmerically performed, Human-Scale story of a Global Calamity & Absolute Disgrace!”

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@lucy\_r\_p: “excellent, a triumph in research, writing and performing”

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@SarahHayton42: "a blow-by-blow account of the financial events that led to global economic collapse in an accessible, personal, tub-thumping piece of theatre. It should be a #consitutionalright that all must see #TheAudit"

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@hollyrachael\_: "Finally understand the recession now thanks to @proto\_type!! #TheAudit full of charisma, passion, charm and information! Loved it"

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@edpnrorkrowan: "who knew #TheAudit, about 2008 financial crisis, would be such a mesmeric, compelling, angry, clever show? @Proto\_type theater should be on the curriculum and tv and anywhere money is made or lent or spent"

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@SamuelCPearson: "A really thought provoking performance and has made me look at the idea of money and how it controls everything and the conditions that come with it"

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"Really enjoyed #TheAudit by @Proto\_type @LPAC\_Lincoln. Text ebbing and flowing like the North Atlantic Ocean on the Icelandic coast. Tension rising and falling like the value of shares on the stock market. Images drawing our attention to currency and mythology. A storm is coming."

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"Incisive, challenging, seething with a quiet rage. If you feel you need some fire in your belly, go."

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"#TheAudit. @Proto\_type Exceptional. Poetic, superbly performed and thought provoking. A must see."

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"Absolutely blown away by The Audit! Great cast, great performance and great director!"

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"I saw #TheAudit by @Proto\_type last night and it's the best play lecture documentary performance art poetry reading about the 2008 financial crisis I've seen. And a really good impression of Margaret Thatcher too"

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“@Proto\_type theatre brought their sharp, punchy and unflinching new show to the @LPAC\_Lincoln last night #TheAudit it was a poetic reflection on the horrors of humanity and must be seen!”

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“I have not been informed and engaged with a piece of theatre like that in a while. I feel much more aware of where I stand in the big picture now. #TheAudit”

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“How amazing to learn from lecturers that are also active theatre-makers and practitioners. Very excited to see #TheAudit @LPAC\_Lincoln tonight!”

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“Last night my mind was opened more than ever in a theatre by @Proto\_type amazing! A must see for anyone. #TheAudit”

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“Absolutely blown away by #TheAudit by @Proto\_type! It was also unexpectedly very helpful for my dissertation! I can't wait to see what they make next! 💰 💰 💰”

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“Stormy weather. @Proto\_type deliver an excellent follow up to #AMachineTheyreSecretlyBuilding. Chilling, clever and always fascinating #TheAudit is a definite Go see!”

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“#TheAudit is a fantastic piece of work from @Proto\_type – still musing over it this morning (and despairing)!”

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“Jesus Christ that was good. #theaudit by @Proto\_type Theater”

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“What a fantastic insightful, intelligent and proactive performance as always. A call to stand up for what you believe in.”

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“#TheAudit is a despairing look at an unfinished story, an impassioned plea for the future, and a lesson in performance! #letschangethegame”

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“Dear @OwenJones84, I strongly recommend that you go watch #TheAudit by @Proto\_type. It’s such a strong piece on the impacts of neo-liberalism on our lives, a call out for us to react and don’t allow them to fool us again. #contemporarytheatre #resistance #fightforyourrights”

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“Just watched #TheAudit by @Proto\_type and it was flippin ace, I feel terrified/invigorated.”

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“Thanks for explaining the rules of the game last night @Proto\_type I left feeling motivated and eager to find some pots and pans #TheAudit”

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“Well... we are on our way home feeling angry, frustrated, emancipated and full of knowledge. Knowledge is key when you’re looking for a new loop hole.”

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“The Audit by @Proto\_type guaranteed to make you reconsider your place in the world”

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“#TheAudit by @Proto\_type was great, as their stuff always is. Amazing how effectively you can tell a story with just a few props“

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“Oh F\*@k, The Audit by @Proto\_type was brilliant. Feel proper invigorating and I want to headbutt a bank.”

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“Everyone go and see #TheAudit So incredible! @proto\_type have done it again! I’m speechless.”

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“How do @Proto\_type leave me speechless every time? If you get the chance make sure you see #TheAudit”

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"Just watched #TheAudit by @Proto\_type at @LPAC\_Lincoln and I have no words. Made me and my peers question everything regarding our financial situation."

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"Exciting to see our lecturers being active participants within the theatre culture. I am one lucky girl to know these people."

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"Another fantastic show by @Proto\_type. #TheAudit is incredibly articulate and powerful and needs to be seen! Can't wait for the next thought provoking performance!"

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"Wow... information overload! Learnt more about the financial crisis of 2008 in an hour from @Proto\_type @LPAC\_Lincoln than any number of articles & reports. Deceptively simple delivery leaves you wanting to understand more - really important theatre #TheAudit"

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"A huge round of applause to @Proto\_type for their incredible, articulate show as well as an insightful Q&A. Moving and empowering, #TheAudit is definitely not to be missed. Good luck from all of us for the rest of the tour, let's bang some pans!"

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"Went in to see @Proto\_type's #TheAudit not knowing what to expect and came out completely blown away!! What an incredible and thought provoking show! Go see it if you can!"

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"@Proto\_type blow my mind and shit me up in equal measure."

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"We all thoroughly enjoyed #TheAudit by @Proto\_type! Beautiful and thought provoking! Please go and see it if you have chance!"

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"Just seen #TheAudit by @Proto\_type 100% worth going to see."

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"Just watched #TheAudit from @Proto\_type with @Izzyharvey2 \$¥ absolutely incredible. If you've ever felt the suffocating ties of the purse strings, you should see this show. Listen to this story, this true story and make the world move again 📺"

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"Just seen @Proto\_type #TheAudit and it's every bit as important and powerful as our neoliberal overlords. See it before it's quietly shut down by the man".

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"every bit as important and powerful as our neoliberal overlords. See it before it's quietly shut down by the man."

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@chloedenby: "#TheAudit has made my hate for the government even stronger now. Really has opened my eyes about money!"

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"Loved @Proto\_type's #theaudit thoroughly enjoyable piece. Current, fresh and provoking work. Greed does come at a price."

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@sam\_hall6362: "Stunningly written and beautifully performed. Absolute must see!!!"

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@edwinamc: "half a call to arms, half excuse for me to never leave the house ever again. Very clever, digestible look into our bleak future in a falling economy"

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@jezjohnson: "Excellent performances from both actors and a very engaging play"

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@pallascaphoto: "they made greed tangible in that theatre. A poetic call to arms"

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@DensityofSound: "A very interesting and clever account of where austerity comes from and what Iceland did about their crisis"

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@HEA\_HP: "on the human cost of corporate greed, on finding a voice and raising it in protest"

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@lancasterarts: "The Audit is about finding strength and overcoming a world designed to keep us docile"