

THEATRE
SILKEN VEILS

VENUE 13, LOCHEND CLOSE
(VENUE 13)

★★★★★

THE songs of the great Persian poet Rumi run like a thread through this narrative, which weaves together the tale of a reluctant bride with the story of a family torn apart by war.

Using puppets, shadow play, projected images and animation the Californian cast tell a story of love, betrayal, heartbreak and exile, which leaves a young Persian émigré unable to commit herself to her husband-to-be.

On the night of her wedding Darya casts her mind back to the civil war which tore apart her family. The poems her mother recited to her as a child become the key to moving beyond the pain left by the terrible events of history.

Writer and performer Leila Ghaznavi weaves together fact and fiction in her narrative, which shows the Iranian revolution of 1979 and the Iran-Iraq war from the perspective of a single family, through the eyes of a child.

Although the young Darya struggles with the meaning of Rumi's love poems as she becomes older, they show her how to understand her parents, reconnect with her heritage and reawaken the love in her own heart.

There is a great simplicity and beauty in how the story is presented, and all the elements are woven together in a way which is both magical and enchanting. Although the central narrative contains a lot of sadness it is told with a lightness of touch which makes it a joy to watch.

The combination of images, words, action and music create a picture which can move you to tears but which also shows how the awareness of beauty can set you free.

CLAIRE SMITH

Until 21 August. Today 2:20pm.