

## Camden Fringe London. Beings by In Between Butoh at The Sheephaven Bay

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Looking back, one of the more interesting shows offered up by this year's **Camden Fringe** was *Beings* by **In Between Butoh**, a company based mainly in **Italy**. The story of the **Cenci family, in 1500s Italy**, has echoed down the centuries, inspiring by turns **Percy Bysshe Shelley**, **Stendhal** and **Antonin Artaud**.

In *Beings*, which was performed at the **Sheephaven Bay** from the 18th – 20th August 2011, In Between Butoh have created their own interpretation of this story of **incest and murder; of revolt and “the inevitability of evil”** through *butoh*, **the Japanese form of dance or performance art** that allows the body – not the mind – to control movement. As such, *butoh*, is largely unrehearsed and uses distorting and hyper-controlled movements to express that which is normally hidden.

Entering the performance space, we notice a **‘being’ cocooned or trapped in crackling cellophane** on the small stage while **another figure, almost naked, huddles** in the opposite corner. **Frank Heierli** sits to one side **sawing at a cello** but no sound is heard at first. **Flavia Ghisalberty is the imprisoned figure** onstage who extends and retracts one limb and then another in futile attempts to escape her cocoon as **Ezio Tangini slowly strains and writhes his way** across the room in a nightmarish tangle of limbs.

Somehow he impels himself onto the stage. **Flavia’s enmeshed body begins to thrash in the cellophane as he draws closer** and the sounds from the cello become ever more disturbing. Eventually, with almost imperceptible movements, they meet and she withdraws. Gradually Ezio is pushed offstage when, in a moment of what feels like shocking violence after all the restraint, Flavia begins to jump up and down as if to drive him into the earth. **The two bodies fall off the side of the stage** and we are invited to view them lying together in a heap against the wall.

Flavia Ghisalberty, Ezio Tangini and Frank Heierli have created a work that is both **strange and disturbing** in equal measures: it is impossible not to be affected.

Sitting on the stage after the performance, **all three engage with the audience seeking to explain their work** while emphasising that it is not something they consciously work at. There is **a great deal of improvisation** and they do not choreograph.

Flavia explained that the cellophane is not only an effective prop; it is light and easy to carry and while it is possible to say that the back room at the Sheephaven Bay wasn't an ideal venue for *Beings*, the enforced intimacy contributed to a more intense atmosphere **without the normal separation of audience and performers**.

This is not the first Camden Fringe for In Between Butoh and hopefully they will be back – this is what fringe is all

about. In the meantime, you can check out their website. If you get the chance to experience a butoh performance, do take it – I intend to.

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**Scheda Titolo completo:**

***Beings***

*butoh performance* inspired by *The Cenci* by Antonin Artaud

is danced by Flavia Ghisalberty (Switzerland) and Ezio Tangini (Italy)

Music by Frank Heierli (Switzerland)

[In Between Butoh](#) [2]

18-20th August 2011

[Camden Fringe](#) [3] - London

Sheephaven Bay, 2 Mornington Street Camden London NW1 7QD

This review was originally written for [Camden Fringe Voyeur](#) [4]

**Articoli correlati:** [Down-a. Butoh Dance italo-svizzero al Camden Fringe di Londra](#) [5]

[Esseri da Artaud in Butoh. La crudele origine della crisalide](#) [6]

[London Camden Fringe. Beings as a pre-social butoh](#) [7]

- [Teatro](#)

**URL originale:**

<https://www.gothicnetwork.org/articoli/camden-fringe-london-beings-between-butoh-sheephaven-bay>

**Collegamenti:**

[1] <https://www.gothicnetwork.org/immagini/esseri>

[2] <http://www.inbetweenbutoh.com/>

[3] <http://www.camdenfringe.com/>

[4] <http://camdenvoyeur.wordpress.com/>

[5] <https://www.gothicnetwork.org/articoli/donw-butoh-dance-al-camden-fringe>

[6] <https://www.gothicnetwork.org/articoli/esseri-da-artaud-butoh-crudele-origine-della-crisalide>

[7] <https://www.gothicnetwork.org/articoli/london-camden-fringe-beings-pre-social-butoh>