

The Perfect Wagner Rite

The RHA

15-18 September 2016

The Perfect Wagner Rite is a theatrical installation which simultaneously functions as the set for an interactive performance. The work casts a satirical eye over tourism and the warped worldview that it espouses. Greenan's point of departure is GB Shaw's philosophical commentary on Wagner's *Ring-cycle* operas. In a deliberate act of cultural voyeurism inspired by Shaw, the artist filters the *Ring*, and, furthermore, German culture through the fetishizing gaze of the tourist. Greenan's frenzied reinterpretation is enacted by a pseudo-Wagnerian cult whose practices draw on Shaw's text as a source of legitimation. Elaborately crafted props populate their ceremonial ground which conflate *Ring* motifs with disparate Germanic tropes, from Bavarian Folk Art to BDSM. The central structure is a replica of Shaw's rotating writing hut, repurposed as a peepshow. Performers activate the set in a bawdy operetta cum initiation ritual, accompanied by a live score and a live-streaming 'pornographer.' By implicating the viewer as the 'voyeur' *The PWR* playfully examines the extent to which collective behaviour serves to perpetuate the process of cultural commodification.