

DEAD WOOD

theguardian

“This extraordinary agitational spectacle, devised and directed by Hilary Westlake, takes one on a promenade through the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, in gathering darkness both to evoke the sights and sounds of the world’s rainforests and to lament their destruction. The result is something rare; a show that manages to be popular, political and avant-garde all at the same time. “

Michael Billington

NEWSTATESMAN

“Lumiere & Son’s magnificent spectacle Deadwood, presented for three nights in Kew Gardens, had all the characteristics of a large-scale performance piece yet, for the company was merely the latest in a long line of experiments to lead us towards a new recognition of what theatre can be. The boundaries are being crossed on both side. Hilary Westlake’s masterly stroke as deviser and director was to avoid realistic impersonisations by anthropomorphising the soldier ants in uniform, performing silent choral dances.....The sheer boldness of the concept made the scene a theatrical triumph. It also fulfilled the main aesthetic of performance work: the arrangement of music, text, choreography, visual elements and performance in a juxtaposition that transcends literal sense and takes on a new subjective meaning. “

Ken Rea

TimeOut

“For those lucky enough to catch Lumiere & Son’s latest outdoor extravaganza in Kew Gardens, the evening offered above all a sense of occasion.the evening was a triumph of organisational enterprise and witty theatrical vision. “

Helen Rose