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Part physical theatre, part clowning about, this bilingual show that takes a look at the relationship between Mary, Queen of Scots and her cousin Elizabeth I is an absolute delight. It takes the form of a history play-cum-lecture-cum-travelogue as conceived and performed by the quite lovely but very quirky French/Belgian duo Barbara Sylvain and Lula B ry. Slideshows, maps and family trees are utilised to explain the complex (here cheekily offhandedly potted) historical context of the estranged 16th century relations. These props are employed to complement a series of talks, delivered in a French/English/super-title mash-up, and these in turn are punctuated by a number of physical theatre shape-throwing routines that serve as visual representations of various points made.

If that sounds a bit dry, it's anything but. Sylvain and B ry cite [Stefan Zweig](#)'s 1930s biography of Mary Stuart as their starting point for the creation of the show, and, to be fair, they do cram a good deal of historical fact in to it. However, above and beyond being a history lesson, this is a vivid piece of physical theatre and, beyond that, a consistently amusing and frequently hilarious slice of irreverent comedy. Much of the humour is derived from the tension between the efforts Sylvain and B ry go to in order to maintain a professional bearing and the testy relationship they suffer with one another and which they are at pains to keep a lid on. Both actors play the whole thing completely and wonderfully deadpan.

In a clever masterstroke, Sylvain and B ry contrive to compare their own oddly dysfunctional relationship with that of Mary and Elizabeth. It's a subtle conceit that slowly becomes apparent as this beguiling show progresses towards its conclusion. Encore!