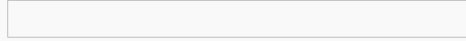


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## Pool Play

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The Village Voice | March 10, 2017



This Is Not a Theatre Company, which often works in nontraditional spaces, here brings the audience poolside for a show aptly called Pool Play. Originally staged in 2014, the site-specific work returns now for an engagement set in and around an indoor swimming pool; the audience is meant to dip their feet in the water while watching. (Ponchos are provided for splash protection.) With scenes of synchronized swimming, water aerobics, and even a monologue by a fish, the piece (with text by Charles Mee and Jessie Bear) is organized around vignettes that explore water and the swimming pool and their roles in American culture. As much as pools can evoke ideas of community, fun, play, and relaxation, they can also represent anxiety, wealth, privatization, and segregation. Much like the company's last show, Versailles 2016, which was set in a New York City apartment and dealt with economic division, Pool Play finds the outfit embedding a political intensity beneath a layer of outward frivolity.