

October 4th 2009
Evelyn Glennie - "The Touch of Sound"



Jackie and I went up to Glasgow early on Sunday 4th October on the train as there was an old firm game on at Ibrox and we didn't want to get caught up in that. The two of us had lunch in an Italian cafe in Central Station before heading up to Sauchiehall St. We eventually found the right bus stop where a wee girl started stroking my hand - My Mehndi was still in good nick from the day at the Town hall - and she said it was very pretty!

Unfortunately, we did not know the number in the street for CCA and had to ask 2 Police persons for directions - we were practically outside it by then. Frances was waiting inside and the two of us joined her and had a soft drink. Jane eventually turned up and we threatened her that she would be put over Frances's knee for a smack as we all thought she was late.

The Cafe Improv was very busy and the 4 of us went through to the Cinema. It was a full house.

Sushil K Dade then introduced the film to much hilarity as he tore up all his notes and scattered them on the floor. Before the film 'The Touch of Sound ' started we were treated to an amazing drumming session by some Asian drummers some of whom were children. They played a piece called "Raise the Ceiling" and they did.

Eventually the film started and it was narrated by Evelyn Glennie herself. It took her to Germany where she improvised a piece of music with Fred Firth in what looked like an abandoned factory and they made music with just about anything that came to hand including a Boomwhacker played on Fred's back.

She explained that she started to go deaf at the age of 8 when she had started to enjoy music. She was told by teachers that she could never play a musical instrument but she proved that she could by touching the sound' with vibrations.

The film showed her all over the world including Japan where she played with an amazing group of musicians.

One strange part was filmed at her family home where her brother farms. This is in Aberdeenshire.

There had been no subtitles through the film up until then, but when he spoke, his words were sub-titled. This caused a bit of a laugh in the audience as he was not speaking the Doric but was very easily understood.

The farm, very sadly, was destroyed with fire the following week but thankfully no-one was hurt.

One of the most touching parts of the film, for me, was when she was teaching a deaf girl to touch the sound and the girls face just lit up when she got it. - Absolutely beautiful!

It was amazing how the sound of the traffic was also incorporated and this added to it so much.

When the film ended, we went through for another drink and just sat and blethered with folk. A very worthwhile way to spend a Sunday and one I'll never forget

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Words by Lesley King/Paddington Bear