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LENI'S LAST LAMENT THEATRE REVIEW: HISTORY TOLD BY A LOSER

Reflecting on a notorious propaganda film in a vampish Weimar style

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14 August 2024

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like some Weimar diva with the countenance of a mid-period Fassbinder heroine by way of a last-gasp Nico. As some of her greatest hits beam out behind her, Leni's yarns include the one about how Hitler became afflicted with tennis elbow, and just how much of a mark her propagandist opus *Triumph Of The Will* left on *Star Wars*.

No slouch in making a song and dance of things, and accompanied on accordion, violin and percussion by Spiff Wiegand, Markell's Leni makes numbers by Melanie, Tom Waits and Mary Hopkin her own. There's also the chance to become an extra in her final movie. Just watch where you put those arms, mind, as Leni prepares for her ultimate finale. Those were the days, my friend, and, as the final image makes clear, it looks like they're already making a comeback. *Leni's Last Lament, Assembly Rooms, until 25 August, 5.25pm.*

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