



# MONIQUE JENKINSON'S **LUXURY ITEMS**

The socially conscious aesthete has a lot to carry around...  
And she needs a good bag.

Written, conceived, choreographed & performed by: Monique Jenkinson

**Monique Jenkinson**, performance artist, dancer and the woman behind drag superstar Fauxnique, presents **Luxury Items** a solo performance that juxtaposes formal dance and academic lecture, interactive video and talking handbags, drag and historical reenactment – to examine various and collective notions of extravagance and necessity while reveling in pleasures both guilty and unapologetic.

The piece argues that while our persistent desire for status might ruin us, our equally persistent desire for beauty – even through war, economic hardship and environmental uncertainty – sustains us.

Audiences should prepare themselves for:

- Designer and counterfeit handbags engaging in a lively panel discussion
- An ill-fated audition for 'Rent'
- A Busby Berkeley chorus girl giving her all in newspaper couture
- Coco Chanel attempting to explain herself without apology
- Vogueing and perfume advertising imagery coming together in a gorgeously heady kinetic blend, with base notes of Trisha Brown's 'Accumulation' score.

Over the last decade, the term 'luxury' has grown more and more loaded – racked with meaning. It has gone from exclusive adjective to banal prefix, from enraging epithet to dirty secret. **Luxury Items** addresses those multiple meanings via the touchstones of value and time, guilt and decadence, ephemerality and pleasure, lingerie and perfume, Marie Antoinette and Coco Chanel, the 'Bread and Roses' Strike of 1912 and Busby Berkeley's *Gold Diggers* of 1933.

## **Praise for *Luxury Items*:**

'...what a work! ...It retains all requisite insouciance and wit even while deconstructing, in compellingly personal and historical terms, the "real" material bargain being made in every rarified, Chanel-clouded embrace of precious materialism.'

– **San Francisco Bay Guardian**

'...heady (and humorous) artistic conceits...explore collective notions of necessity and extravagance.'

– **San Francisco Magazine**

