



-Review

August 4, 2019

No: Intermission is in its inaugural season as a one-act play festival and it's a marvellous showcase for this very underrated theatrical form. As a de-gustation menu, the entertainment value for lovers of small and concise work is replete and it's also a neat way to see some emerging talent.

Such is the case with *Infidelity & Enlightenment* which is a cracker watch. Written by Sydney based playwright, comedian and performer Lauren Bonner, the script, in the main, just crackles. It's hilarious, dry, wry and socially challenging. A female teacher has had a 'thing' with a year 12 student. Bonner drops us straight in and I loved that about the play ... no lingering early mystery. Boom! There it is and the world is built. But Bonner then layers a prevarication on the text. What has actually gone on? Horror mounts! As the teacher's husband and the student's girlfriend amble and burst in, one guileless and one knowing, the plot thickens and the infidelity does in fact becoming enlightening.

The fact that we laugh at this matter is in the very well-directed excellence of the performers. (Director: Liam Shand Egan) Nic Westwood is so funny as this badly behaved woman, her vocal work in throwing a comic line and her physicality in responding to the absurdity occurring in her living room is perfectly pitched to the space. A terrific scene partner, James Ong is energy plus and hurls himself around the set with a youthful exuberance and passion which is very tailored to the text by Egan. Ong is great fun to watch.

As is the contrasting character of the lugubrious husband played by Matt Prichard. A bear of a man (it's on his jammies) he presents a gentle soul who is almost completely rational in this perversity of circumstance. Prichard doesn't fade this man's presence in the non-speaking sections and his listening is excellent without being overdone; nor is his character's struggle to contain himself



the play.

Still funny, there is a more rational reach out to the audience at this point. Though the relationship origin story does affect the pace of the play; slowing it noticeably as we head towards a resolution which is, however, contrarily comic and emotionally satisfying. There is another outstep sequence in the work which is surprising and explains the use of the pink upstage lights and it is pure hilarity with a we-shouldn't-be-laughing smack to the back of the head. There's a lot of that in this thoroughly enjoyable offering.

Unfortunately, you will miss this oddly comic take on a serious subject as [Infidelity & Enlightenment](#) has finished at [No: Intermission](#) but keep an eye out. Great fun and a sneaky provocation.

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