

# Weekend NOTES

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## Girl Shut Your Mouth - Adelaide Fringe Review

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by [Chloe Cannell \(subscribe\)](#)

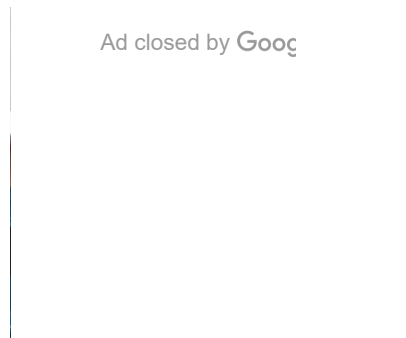
I'm a writer with a love of young adult novels, musical theatre and vegetarian food.

Event: 11/03/2020 - 14/03/2020

Young women trying to be normal in a dangerous world

Overall rating: ★★★★★

16-year-old Katie got shot and all her friends are jealous. It is a striking premise to begin **Gita Bezard's** play **Girl Shut Your Mouth** following four teenage girls trying to learn and hang out while all their friends die. The dark play portrays a dystopian reality for many women and refugees at large in countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, America and Australia.



The Australian play takes an honest look at the desperation of people in dire situations. The four teenage girls face the real threat of physical and sexual violence every day while being denied their education. Katie gets the chance to leave after being shot in the head while trying to attend school, held in her friend's house, thus being deemed hurt enough to be worthy of rescue. The play illustrates the authority's willingness to deny safety to refugees until situations go beyond unliveable.

The dialogue is engaging from the beginning as we enter the scene of Katie's shooting. The young women Grace, Mia and Katie defend each other except for character Darcy concerned with protecting herself. As the play continues, we see Darcy's desire to play it safe and her friends criticise her for doing so, asking the questions is it better to protect yourself or fight back? Show solidarity with other women or hide when it doesn't affect you? The play illustrates there is no clear position for women to take in an unsafe world.

The teenage colloquial language is natural and realistic while talking about everyday fears in a casual conversation which makes the story more unsettling. The cast including **Kobi Taylor-Forder** as Katie, **Sophie Strykowski** as Grace, **Antonia Korn** as Darcy and **Kaylee Ashton** as Mia are believable from start to finish. The cast switch to playing male figures in character and their booming voices send a chill down my spine. While it may be played by a female cast, if yelling male voices are triggering this play may not be for you. Please also be mindful of loud noises, strobe lighting, a gun prop and depictions of violence.

Directed by Carly Fisher, the staging is dynamic and exciting throughout the play. The movements, lighting, sound, levels and use of space draw attention to action and creates apprehension; it pulls you into wanting to know what happens next. The cast smoothly switches between scenes, which is impressive with a non-linear story, and they use props in clever ways. The story delivery is always engaging and there are a few laughs here and there, more so at the ridiculous but true ways women are treated.

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For a 6pm show, this play is not a pre-dinner snack; it is an intense message you will be chewing on for the evening. The performance by Taylor-Forder, Strykowski, Korn and Ashton is captivating and confronting. Girl Shut Your Mouth is at the top of feminist theatre to watch.

**Girl Shut Your Mouth has ONLY two more shows this Fringe season Friday 13th and Saturday 14th March. Support women in Australian theatre by buying a ticket [here](#).**

Keep an eye out for more work from female-led, Sydney-based arts company Theatre Travels by checking their website, Facebook and Instagram.



Sourced from the Adelaide Fringe website  
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**Why?** Captivating Australian theatre on global gender concerns  
**When:** 6pm, 13-14 March  
**Website:** <https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/girl-shut-your-mouth-af2020>  
**Where:** Mainstage at Bakehouse Theatre  
**Cost:** \$10-28  
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