



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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OSAMA THE HERO

five.point.one

Bakehouse Theatre

Until 16 May 2009

Reviewed by Michael Feast

With the Australian première of "Osama the Hero" by Dennis Kelly, the team at five.point.one explores a wide range of subjects. The setting is a London housing estate.

Gary (Cameron Pike) is a confused young man in a world where mediocrity is encouraged. When bins blow up and garden sheds that are the pride and joy of the neighbourhood are burnt to the ground, Gary is the prime suspect.

The play's title comes from Gary's choice of Osama Bin Laden for his school project on contemporary heroes. His ill-educated neighbours decide this is terrorist behaviour and band together to "sort it". Francis (Scott Marcus), Louise (Elleni Karagiannidis) and Mark (Patrick Frost) want answers and revenge.

This story is concerned with the media's ability to create fear in, as well as celebrity of, "ordinary people". The other story from the estate is the nature of the relationship between Mark (Patrick Frost) and his teenage wife, Mandy (Bridget Mackey). As these lives converge, the fear and misunderstanding lead to violent consequences.

The impressionistic set with its small piles of rubble is enhanced by wonderful lighting (Ben Flett), giving the effect of the housing estate as hostile territory. Christian Patterson's sound design is the sixth character in the play.

For theatre that challenges and leaves you wanting more, five.point.one has excelled with "Osama the Hero". It's theatre that makes you seek answers to many questions.