



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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WYRD SISTERS

Unseen Theatre Company

Bakehouse Theatre

Until 25 Jun 2011

Review by Jamie Wright

Three witches meet in the woods around a bubbling cauldron and an ambitious nobleman and his wife commit regicide and seize the throne. No, it's not Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'; it's 'Wyrd Sisters', the adaptation of the Discworld novel of the same name by author Terry Pratchett.

While Discworld adaptations are never easy – the novels really don't lend themselves to the stage, thanks mostly to the rapidly changing scenes – but the Unseen people have plenty of experience in staging them, which helps; director Pamela Munt and co-director David Dyte have kept the humour up throughout, and the pace as best as possible, and this is aided by using projected images as scenic backdrops. Towards the end of the second act, though, things get a bit out of control and it descends into hard-to-follow chaos.

Pamela Munt's Granny Weatherwax captures most of the character, but her gruff character voice doesn't allow for enough intonation, diminishing the impact. Therese Hornby has some of Nanny Ogg's earthy tone and mannerisms down, but delivers far too many lines towards the audience. Lucy Haas-Hennessy is nicely innocent as trainee witch Magrat.

Marlon Dance-Hooi shines as The Fool, showing good physical skills and comic timing; Hugh O'Connor is good as both Death and Hwell, the playwright; and James Loader does well to convey Duke Felmet's growing insanity. Other performances, though, are mixed, with too many of the cast delivering lines in awkward and unnatural-sounding ways, which detracts from the humour.

Costumes by Kahlia Tutty and Samm Blackmore are great, particularly the Fool's motley. Lighting by Stephen Dean helps with the scene changes, and adds effect in certain scenes.

While it's not great theatre by any standards, Pratchett fans should still enjoy the chance to see the iconic characters brought to life; there is still plenty of humour in the script, and the parts where the high-energy slapstick works are good for a few laughs as well.