



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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WOODCOURT: CARLY AND TROY DO 'A DOLL'S HOUSE'

Woodcourt Art Theatre

The Coffee Pot

Until 26 February 2014

Review by Brian Godfrey

As the audience take their seats, actors Carly Young and Troy Reid discuss what play they could perform - preferably one with a multitude of characters, so that they can astound with their cleverness. They agree on Chekhov's "The Seagull" but quickly realise that another company in Adelaide is about to do it for some sort of international festival, so Troy settles on Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House", with himself playing the central character of Nora, of course!

Emma McManus directs what at the outset seems a straightforward satire on directorial cleverness, symbolism in today's theatre and artistic differences, but on deeper investigation turns into a clever examination of gender, power, domination, sexuality, personal desires, Beyonce's "Halo" and macaroons.

This show is very funny and very 'now', with some nice poignant moments thrown in for good measure. Knowledge of the original text is not required, but there are some nice little 'in' jokes for those that know their Ibsen.

Reid is particularly strong as an actor, displaying a great feel for comedy and an ability to move extremely well. But it is when both Young and Reid play to their correct genders in a crucial dramatic scene from "A Doll's House" that we see what truly talented actors they are. It is a beautiful scene, well played from both of them.

David Molloy's video adds laughs and context extremely well, but the sound is rather muddy.

This reviewer would like to see more of Carly and Troy 'doing' other great theatrical classics.

Rating: 4 stars (out of 5)