



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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WOODCOURT: ENCOUNTER

Woodcourt Art Theatre

The Coffee Pot

Until 8 March 2014

Review by Brian Godfrey

Having now reviewed four out of five Woodcourt Art Theatre Fringe shows, this reviewer has a great respect for the company. They are young, talented, original and excel in what called be called 'laid back' theatre.

Based on a short story by Kirby Medway (who is also one of the central characters) and directed by Sanja Simic, "Encounter" is basically an homage to and gentle send-up of the horror/supernatural genre.

While taping ambient sounds in a park for a 'puff' piece, journalist Medway encounters a man who has, literally, been running for 20 years. His reason for this is that back then a creature started following him. What follows becomes somewhat of a study of Man and what constitutes his fear, and what exactly makes an unknown creature any different from us – maybe we are the real creatures!

Simic uses many original ideas and unusual quirks to make this production wonderfully different and entertaining: the actors are discovered chatting in a corner as the audience walk into the acting space; the technician is stage manager, prop master, sound and lighting tech and actor all rolled into one; the first five to ten minutes is voice only narration, heightening our suspense of what is going to happen; and we are constantly reminded, by various means, that this is a play and the characters are actors.

The (unfortunately unnamed) cast of three all display excellent performance and timing skills, making this yet another gem from Woodcourt's goldmine. Hopefully they will return for next year's Fringe.

Rating: 4 stars (out of 5)