

Adelaide Theatre Guide

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Supporting live theatre in South Australia

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DOCTOR WHO'S MIDNIGHT

Sporadic Productions Holden Street Theatre **Until February 27**

Review by Louise Miller Frost

Knock, knock – who's there?

I should start by warning Whovians that my Doctor Who watching is a couple of decades out of date, so I was unfamiliar with this episode from the fourth series (June 2008). I feel less concerned about this because Producer Paul Messenger confesses that his Dr Who watching has been confined to several Tom Baker and William Hartnell episodes.

Midnight is one of few episodes of Dr Who that occurs entirely in one set – a shuttle carriage on the way to the resort planet of Midnight. When the shuttle unexpectedly and inexplicably breaks down in a toxic environment, Dr Who (Hugh OConnor) and a group of tourists are trapped, waiting for rescue. Despite assurances that they are perfectly safe and that there is no life, strange knocking precedes an attack on the vessel – and the group are left to deal with the increasingly strange and ominous behavior of one of their number. Turning on each other, Lord of the Flies-like, panic and fear drives uncivilized behavior.

Special mention should go to Samantha Blackmore who plays tourist Sky Silvestery for her perfect timing throughout the show, on which much of the action and story turns.

The set is the carriage turned sideways to aid sightlines – nonetheless for most members of the audience there would have been particular characters who were out of sight for much of the show, which does impact on the ability to read faces and actions.

Two and a half stars (out of five) but no Daleks