



# Adelaide Theatre Guide

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## EGLANTYNE

### Ms Chamberlain and Holden Street Theatres

Holden Street Theatres – The Arch

Until 6 Mar 2016

Review by Kylie Pedler

Although a little dry, Anne Chamberlain has written a highly researched account of passionate activist Eglantyne Jebb. While her name is not widely known, her cause has become internationally recognised.

Charging onto the stage with intensity, Chamberlain takes the audience back to a 1919 rally in which Eglantyne distributed flyers about the plight of starving children, resulting from the famine in Europe following World War 1. After being arrested, Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy hired The Royal Albert Hall. At this public meeting the doubters replaced their rotten apples with donations and the first collection for the Save the Children Fund occurred.

Eglantyne dreamed of a world in which no child should suffer and where children are helped no matter what country or religion they belong too. Eglantyne worked tirelessly and actively, throughout her life, persuading countries and dignitaries to donate and sign the Declaration of The Rights of the Child.

Despite many personal struggles with loneliness, heartbreak and loss, Eglantyne continued her fight for the rights of the child to be universally recognised. Chamberlain, moves between characters, including herself as narrator, to capture the life of this amazing woman.

Overall it is a story about vision, humanity and taking responsibility. So in Eglantyne's words, "humanity owes the child the best it has to give," so what are we doing to save the children?

Rating: 4.5 stars (out of 5)