



Tennessee Williams: Wild At Heart

Pentameters Theatre, London

Thu, 03 Nov

“All you need is love” and if that’s true then from who? Family, friends, strangers, lovers or simply from one’s self? We appear to ache for love from others, from the outside, most especially when we struggle to find it inside ourselves.

Tennessee Williams’ four one-act plays currently on at the Pentameter Theatre in Hampstead tackles this absence of self-love through two protagonists, in each play, pitted against each other and set in stifling claustrophobic environments. There’s mother and daughter in ‘At Liberty’, poet and fan in ‘Mr Paradise’, the lady of easy virtue past her best days and the fresh girl on the block in ‘Hello From Bertha’, and the two young lovers in ‘Talk To Me Like The Rain And Let Me Listen’.

These plays project spectres of broken dreams and unattainable hopes, self-debasement and the wish to be someplace else where fulfilment and love for self is assured. These are strong passions that speak even to contemporary mindsets: we see it today in the young in their hopes for a safer more promising future; and in the old, nostalgia for more innocent times. The actors are spot-on, the performances are absorbing and quite astonishing and Sarah Dorsett as Bertha is stomach-gripping.

Directed by Séamus Newham and produced by Léonie Scott-Matthews, the 75mins play(s) runs until 20 Nov. We recommend.

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