

Just Before Sunrise



Deadpan Theatre

Review: Deadpan Theatre's 'Just Before Sunrise'

Published on March 12, 2015 by **Sophie Powell-Cook**

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Max Kirk's unarguably intelligent and funny play captures the humour of relationships and explores the mind-blowing expanse of space and time.

As I write this review, a day later, I still remain entirely stunned from the sheer brilliance of Max Kirk's 'Just Before Sunrise.' Not having seen any student-written theatre before – and a little put off by the slightly clichéd title – I was apprehensive about the quality of the play. This, as it turns out, was entirely ill founded.

Equations, lists, facts and diagrams litter the walls and the floor of the stage and intrigue the audience from the start. Information such as 'roughly every 400 days Venus draws this heart shape in the sky' and various bucket lists helps to give a taste for the romance and astronomical themes to come.

The most astonishing thing is not that the two tales are played out simultaneously, but that they are woven into each other

The play tells of the relationship of Bruce (Jonas Moore/ Harry Trewaldyn) and June (Jude Mack/ Bryher Flanders), with the story of their younger selves – meeting each other for the first time and their classically awkward early dates – playing out alongside the story of their older selves trying to deal with the troubles that age brings.

The younger Bruce (Jonas Moore) is instantly charming and endearingly geeky, whilst June’s cool persona makes their relationship all the more captivating. The love they share is so evident and makes their story extremely moving.



The most astonishing thing is not that the two tales are played out simultaneously, but that they are woven into each other. One of the best scenes is when the young June and Bruce are meeting the other’s parent (June’s father and Bruce’s mother) for the first time, whilst the older June and Bruce are meeting their son’s girlfriend. With each cast member doubling up as other parts, it is a theatrical risk — but due to the undeniable talent and versatility of the actors, it is a risk worth taking.

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The two tales perfectly parallel each other, with Bruce having a theory that time is not linear, instead swerving and overlapping and thereby giving hope for the end. This idea of timelessness is only furthered by the beautiful music that creates a cosy, nostalgic atmosphere.

‘Just Before Sunrise’ is brilliantly written, deftly performed and a joy to watch. Max Kirk is a name we will definitely be seeing a lot more in the future.

Stars: *****

Did you enjoy ‘Just Before Sunrise’ as much as Sophie did? Let us know below or tweet us @EpigramArts

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