

Review: *Rabbit Hole*, by Joh Hartog Productions

By Peter Burdon for *The Advertiser*

Like the title character of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, the protagonists of this Pulitzer Prize winning drama have fallen down a rabbit hole into an alternative reality.



Gail Morrison, Krystal Cave, David Daradan and Stefanie Rossi in Rabbit Hole by Joh Hartog Productions at the Bakehouse Theatre. Picture: Supplied

Rabbit Hole is quite magnificently written, from the desultory conversation that serves when there are no words to truly express feelings of the keenest pain, to cruel barbs filled with anger – even hatred and loathing.

Joh Hartog Productions presents US playwright David Lindsay-Abaire's greatest hit, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

Becca and Howie are a grieving couple, struggling to move on after the accidental death of their young child.



Krystal Cave as Becca and David Daradan as Howie in Rabbit Hole, by Joh Hartog Productions at the Bakehouse Theatre. Picture: Supplied

Like the title character of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, they've fallen down a rabbit hole into an alternative reality.

The familiar is suddenly foreign. They're strangers in their own home.

Hovering in their orbit are Becca's flighty sister Izzy and larger-than-life mother Nat.

The shadow of death hangs heavily over the home, not helped by the presence – in the wings – of Jason, the young man driving the car which accidentally killed the child, himself desperate for some kind of redemption.

Lindsay-Abaire's great achievement here is to work so powerfully, and at length, with the mundane.



David Daradan, Gail Morrison, Stefanie Rossi and Krystal Cave in Rabbit Hole by Joh Hartog Productions at the Bakehouse Theatre. Picture: Supplied

There is solid commitment in the cast, to be sure. Krystal Cave and David Daradan both give impassioned performances, though the chemistry between them is wan. Cave was too softly spoken, almost inaudible at times.

Stefanie Rossi revels in the tragicomic role of the often ditzy Izzy, while Gail Morrison steals more than a few scenes with mother Nat's dry wit. Liam Hennessy, making his stage debut, tackles the very difficult role of Jason with commendable diligence.

Rabbit Hole

Bakehouse Theatre April 29 to May 8