

# ORPHANS



## BLUEFRUIT THEATRE

***The Bakehouse Theatre - Sat November 9***

**Reviewed by Alicia Norton**

Confronting and intense, *Orphans*, written by Dennis Kelly, will certainly engage and challenge you, causing you to question how you would deal in such a situation. Billed as a psychological thriller, the fantastic performances will have you on the edge of your seat, hanging off every word and constantly on guard for the next twist. All seems well in the world for Danny (Charles Mayer) and his wife, Helen (Anna Cheney) however things slowly begin to unravel when Helen's brother, Liam (Sam Calleja) shows up at their house - covered in blood.

As the truth begins to come to light, each character reveals pieces of their past through the way in which they react to the developing situation. Try as you might, you won't be able to predict how each person responds and gradually becomes involved in the less than savoury business.

Dennis Kelly's fantastic tale is emotionally challenging whilst remaining incredibly realistic, so that each and every audience member is totally engaged as they consider their own reactions, prejudices and personal experiences.

The simple yet fantastic lighting helps to build the intensity of the basic set while each actor delivers a stand out performance, slowly drawing you in before shocking you at every new revelation. With a duration of two hours - no interval, it may seem like you're in for a long slug, but the time will fly as you become involved in the lives of the complex characters - who could really be anyone, your brother, your sister or your best friend.

For a night at the theatre that will give you enough food for thought to last the next week or so, *Orphans* is the ideal choice however be prepared for a bumpy ride - oh and lots of naughty words!