

THE LAST CONTINENT



Reviewed by Alicia Norton for Fringe Benefits

For a play based on a Terry Pratchett novel, it certainly sounds obvious, but it's clear that Terry Pratchett fans will enjoy this production of *The Last Continent* from **Unseen Theatre Company**.

Back for a second season, after specifically being requested by fans, *The Last Continent* follows the exploits of one incredibly unlikely hero – Rincewind – in a world where anything and every thing can and will happen.

Rincewind is 'stuck' in the last continent, a place referred to as xxx. He is tasked by a magical talking kangaroo with the job of bring salvation – in the form of rain, to the land. Meanwhile, curiously, a group of wizards from the 'Unseen University' are searching for Rincewind as he may be their only help too, in their quest to cure their librarian (who is actually an orangutan?!) who is suffering from an obscure ailment.

The land in which the events unravel is not Australia – as the narrator tells us; however it seems to have many a similarity with this barren and unforgiving land. The 'Australian-ness' of a number of the situations is what leads to many of the jokes and quirky situations in the show – with bogan-esque characters and situations which err on the safe side of diving straight into *Wolf Creek* territory! Bare witness to iconic Australian events (but remember – it's not Australia!) like the invention of vegemite and the style in which Ned Kelly could have escaped from his prison cell – with a real tongue in cheek, knowing wink the whole while! The show has been adapted from the original book and directed by Pamela Munt, and while it may seem clunky and difficult to follow at times, I'm sure that those who are familiar with the tale will enjoy the show none the less. A number of standout moments come to mind, including that of Samm Blackmore as the Island God – a role which was perfectly presented to bring about expert hilarity!

The set is basic yet clever – a sandy floor perfectly sets the scene for the dusty, warm location of the tale. Costumes – for the most part – helped to bring characters to life, although the use of animal masks for the animal characters was distracting at times as it muffled the actors' voices, pulling the audience away from the message and story.

The cast of actors, many of whom were playing more than one character did well and kept great energy throughout the performance.

Although a little quirkiest than my usual tastes and containing some slightly corny and clichéd moments, *The Last Continent* will certainly appeal to fans of the book and author alike.