

THE WEE FREE MEN

[Unseen Theatre Company](#)

[Bakehouse Theatre](#)

Until 30 Apr 2016

Review by [Brian Godfrey](#) – Adelaide Theatre Guide

With many thoughts, ideas and plot lines running throughout, many scene changes into some very strange places and many, many varied and interesting characters running amok in the late Sir Terry Pratchett's novels; they have never lent themselves that easily to stage adaptations. Stephen Briggs has managed a few and for some time now so has Adelaide's Pamela Munt. Her versions are just getting better and better.

“The Wee Free Men” is Munt's latest attempt and it's pretty good. Although set in the Discworld and featuring some familiar characters, this story does not particularly require previous knowledge of Pratchett's work. It deals more with dreams and their nature and fantasy – there are many allusions to Alice and her adventures in a certain Wonderland whilst traipsing through her looking-glass, with even a small nod to the Wizard Of Oz.

The story of the quest undertaken by Tiffany, with the help of a Toad familiar and a pack of pilfering pixies called the ‘Wee Free Men’, to find her baby brother Wentworth, who has been taken by the Faerie Queen is nicely paced and not so wordy as some of the previous Discworld adaptations.

Munt uses a very clever device for staging scene changes in this production – the ‘Wee Free Men’ steal all the props and set dressing.

As Toad, Hugh O'Connor gets the best and driest lines in the show, and delivers them superbly. His competition in the comedy stakes, however, are the ‘Wee Free Men’, in particular Harold Roberts as Rob Anybody. These blue-faced, kilted, Scottish-speaking wee ones are hilarious, bounding around on stage like the Keystone Kops on steroids.

Lending a nice air of respectability is Alycia Rabig as Miss Tick; Olivia Cameron makes a great Footnote; with Michelle Whichello and Munt making nice cameo appearances as Nanny Ogg and Granny Weatherwax respectively; and keep an eye on young Josephine Giorgio (Tiffany), she is going to prove to be a talent to be reckoned with.

If you want a good laugh with some Pratchett philosophy on the side, go looking for “The Wee Free Men”.