

Thief of Time

Unseen Theatre Company

Bakehouse Theatre

Until June 7th 2014

*Thief of Time* is a terrific stage adaptation of Terry Pratchett's sublime satirical-fantasy novel of the same name. Wonderfully staged, smartly bespoke, and stocked with great lines, the play adds another worthy entry to the Unseen repertoire. As usual, the production combines all the best elements of the company to produce a satisfyingly paced piece that ranks among Pamela Munt's, and her players', best episodes. It is an enjoyable romp. Discworld fans - and many round-world patrons - will find it an absolute treat.

This is an impressive play with a good deal of aptitude in the troupe; and each performer is truly striking. It's surprising what substance in presentation can do to bring complex plots, entire continents, and even the whole of space and time, to life.

Of course, the play is a quest with comical heroes, sagacity, and satire, but this time, it comes with an unusual philosophical outlook, that fortunately doesn't detract from the hilarity.

Much of the success is due to the hearty direction by Munt who's adaptation gives the piece a suitable depth and yet doesn't ignore the essence of Pratchett's humour. She delivers a fairy-tale for adults, utilising the author's astonishing work of imagination to yield fastidious absurdity and soul in every particular, impeccably produced scene. No matter how it's measured, the good-time in this production is well spent and it's something one may want to witness time and time again.

Time has stopped. The world is given over to fairy tales and monsters, and there's a schoolteacher walking around. She is Susan (Amelia Lorien) and she's Death's granddaughter. Death (Hugh O'Connor) has noticed the Auditors are back and that can only mean disaster for humanity. On behalf of the Auditors, Lady LeJean (Priscilla Thomas), has asked Jeremy Clockson (Leighton James) to build the legendary glass clock. But this precision device will imprison Time. He has to be stopped and only the History Monks - who make sure that tomorrow happens - can stop him. So, Lu-Tze (Phillip Lineton) and his young apprentice Lobsang, spend time to slice time and head off to Ankh Morpork to save Time.

An audacious concept, superlatively accomplished, this grand scale comic-gambol delights; combining rib-tickling humour with high-brow notions and a sense of wonder. *Thief of Time* is enormously appealing, beguiling and one of those comedies that's rich in atmosphere and a plot that will keep the attention due to narrative crispness. Go see this production now. After all procrastination is the thief of time.

*Stephen Davenport - Indaily*