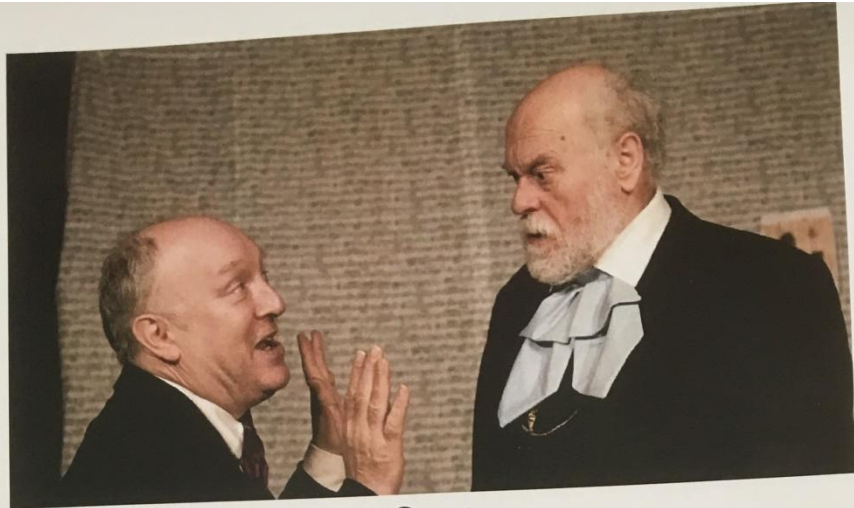


The



Oysters

Theatre

Rating: ★★★★★

Studio, Bakehouse Theatre

Until March 16

A comedy about Brahms? Forgive me, even as a lover of classical music, for being a little skeptical when I walked into the theatre.

But that skepticism soon disappears as Neil Salvage – who is also the scriptwriter – and Nicholas Collett deliver brilliant performances with a smart, giggle-worthy script.

Booze, an insufferable party, substandard compositions and a critic for whom the German composer has little respect provide excellent fodder.

Salvage exudes the gentle cruelty of Johannes Brahms as he grows ever more drunk while trying to cope with feigned praise – and Collett plays a long line of people who surround him, giving each character just enough distinction.

They are ably supported by Stefanie Rossi and Ahram Min, whose violin adds occasional drama.

The set is rudimentary, but it's the performers on whom you are meant to focus. And it's well worth your time.