



Wyrd toil and trouble behind Unseen's scenes

WEIRD things have been happening behind the scenes of *Wyrd Sisters*, the 21st birthday production by Unseen Theatre Company, and part of author Terry Pratchett's Discworld.

Unseen's artistic director Pamela Munt says someone must have uttered the true name of the "The Scottish Play" which – along with other Shakespearean works – provides the inspiration for this parody.

While dealing with a misbehaving sewing machine during the costume making process, Munt says Discworld is supposed to be a mirror to our own universe, "a place where, because it is fantasy, we can get away with a lot more laughs, innuendos, and references to amusing incidents in our culture".

"The result of this is often hilarious because, like all good comedy, it hits us where it hurts, which is also where we laugh," says Munt, pictured centre with Alicia Rabig and Natalie Haigh.

Even though *Wyrd Sisters* sends up "The Scottish Play", no-one expected those parallels to extend to the theatrical curse associated with Shakespeare's original. "From the very beginning of rehearsals we have had several instances of some of the cast and crew having to pull out at short notice, as a result of various accidents and illnesses," Munt says.

Unseen was lucky enough to find replacement cast and crew, but feels these lines from the script might have been responsible for a further accident:

Hwel (its version of Shakespeare) to his actors: “Break a leg”.

Nanny Ogg: “Break your own leg”.

“Unfortunately, the worst of the accidents happened to our newest replacement actor Tegan,” Munt says.

“She did actually break her own knee!”

Nevertheless, the sold-out show will go ahead. “It’s a mixture of all of Shakespeare’s works, in a sense,” Munt says. “It starts off with the classic thing of three witches around the cauldron, and the baby getting stolen, all that stuff.

“In Wyrd Sisters, Pratchett’s main concern is words and their ability to change the world. So it is no surprise that he uses Shakespeare as his main vehicle for this story.”

WYRD SISTERS, BAKEHOUSE THEATRE, UNTIL NOVEMBER 27.