

# Between Two Waves



[PATRICIA HERREEN](#) | 14 OCTOBER 2014

Matt Crook and Ellen Steele in *Between Two Waves*. Photo: Olivia Zanchetta

## THEATRE REVIEW |

A responsive audience filled the Bakehouse Theatre with laughter, silence and rich applause in response to the complexities and simple truths put forward in Ian Meadows' thought-provoking play.

First presented in 2012 at Griffin Theatre in Sydney, *Between Two Waves* is an "Umbrella" project presented by the State Theatre Company of South Australia and boasts an outstanding cast and crew.

A strategically lit set highlights louvre windows and a tapered stage. The sound of heavy rain engulfs Daniel (Matt Crook), who stands alone in the lounge room of his home, appearing daunted and undone.

Flash floods have destroyed Daniel's computer records, wiping out years of valuable research. Insurance company assessor Grenelle (Elena Carapetis) follows strict protocol to determine the specific details relating to his claim, and from there the intrigue begins to unravel.

Filmic-style scenes reveal snapshots of the bigger picture as we traverse history in search of clues. Conversations with Grenelle, Daniel's girlfriend Fiona (Ellen Steele) and his mate Jimmy (James Edwards) all provide additional material to support the movements and misgivings of a troubled young man fragmented by love and the laws of probability.

Political positioning and controversy surrounding the subject of climate change are used as metaphors to investigate the insurmountable pressures this man experiences. With impending research outcomes, and life's disappointments and uncertainties weighing heavily on his shoulders, Daniel is struggling to stay afloat.

This is one of those standout productions where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Each cast member delivers the plight of their character with unnerving authenticity, and the pinnacle of artistry is reached during a series of captivating exchanges with shared dialogue across different time frames.

There is no holding back for Crook as the pivotal character of Daniel. He suffers a number of anxiety attacks which are so realistic and gripping they are uncomfortable to watch.

Award-winning director Corey McMahon excels in this showcase production which he describes as "a very real, very human and very powerful examination of our lives, hopes and desires in the face of climate change".

Do yourself a favour and get along to see *Between Two Waves*.

*Between Two Waves* is being performed at the Bakehouse Theatre until October 25.