



THE GAME: Tim Lucas (Hannes Kurmann) and Krystal Brock (Antoinette Stein), who star in the show, *Biography: A Game* at the Bakehouse Theatre. Picture CAMPBELL BRODIE.

Reviews

## Twists and turns superbly executed in *Biography: A Game*

Peter Burdon, *The Advertiser* August 5, 2016 10:23am

The centenary in 2011 of the Swiss playwright Max Frisch's birth saw new editions of a number of his works, among them his cerebral drama *Biography: A Game*, which receives its Australian premiere in a season at the Bakehouse.

Joh Hartog directs a small ensemble with insight and precision. And precision is what is needed in *Biography: A Game*, for it is a sequence of constantly changing episodes, none quite the same, each with its own subtle distinction.

The biography in question is that of an academic, Hannes Kürmann, whose attempt to chronicle his life, particularly one key encounter, in the way that suits him best takes unexpected twists and turns as a spectral Director guides the cast in Kürmann's story. Change a single element of that event, and the outcome might be entirely different.

One of the most clever things about the play, very effectively executed in this production, is the way in which the lead moves between Kürmann (Tim Lucas) and the Director (Adam Carter). Carter is a director from hell, haughty and imperious, and seems a totally dominant and dominating character, but when Lucas winds up the emotional spring, the professor's actions on his own initiative rapidly turn the attention squarely on himself.

*Biography: A Game* is wordy, to be sure, but it works.