

## Reviews

### **EAST OF BERLIN**

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Until 21 Sep 2013



Review by [Brian Godfrey](#)

Hannah Moscovitch's "East Of Berlin" is a Holocaust drama seen from a seldom considered viewpoint: not that of the victims nor the perpetrators, but of the perpetrators' children.

German teenager, Rudi (Adam Carter) discovers from fellow student, Hermann (Tom Cornwall), that his father was the chief doctor at Auschwitz, and that this is the reason he and his family are now living in Paraguay. He rebels sexually and emotionally, and leaves to study medicine in Berlin. While there, he meets, and has a relationship with, Jewish American Sarah (Clare Mansfield). Seven years later he returns to Paraguay to confront his and his father's past.

Moscovitch's script is strong and compelling, and though somewhat wordy for its eighty minutes running time, uses the realistic structure of not completing various sentences, interruptions, and even questioning the audience to provide a good realistic feel while managing to still remain theatrical.

Peter Green's direction is equally strong and compelling and he uses his actors and the small stage space to the greatest maximum effect. Green has the wonderful directorial knack of involving an audience immediately.

Manda Webber's set cleverly and very simply provides an almost concentration camp effect, without it ever being over-oppressive; and her costumes, coupled with Alexander Ramsay's excellent lighting design, allow for an impressive sepia toned look.

As Rudi, Carter is magnificent. He tackles the complexities of his character with an ease and understanding that has to be admired in any actor. His naivety and turmoil is beautifully counter-balanced by Cornwall's schoolboyish innocence giving way to an ability to make trouble. Mansfield completes this triangle brilliantly, being strong but horrified by the atrocities and sins of Rudi's father.

All three actors are exemplary of the young professional talent to be found in Adelaide at the moment. It would be well worth the price of admission to see any one of these actors, let alone all three.

This is a high grade production that should be experienced by all lovers of top-notch, modern drama.