

Fringe Review: Medicine



Presented by T.J. Dawe

Reviewed 14 February 2015

T.J. Dawe is a Canadian storyteller. He doesn't profess to be an actor or a writer. He simply tells stories; true stories of his own life and how he fits the pieces together.

He stands quietly in the centre of a bare stage with a warm smile. He begins telling of his strict Catholic upbringing with his high school principal father and of rules he didn't like but didn't think to challenge. Suddenly, and with an unapologetic lack of segue, we are hearing about the dysfunctional nature of the modern keyboard where the letter placement is

based on an old typewriter, designed to ensure the rods didn't clash. It seemed incongruous at the time but the relevance became cleverly apparent.

From there we are taken on an incredibly personal journey of self-reflection and discovery. Dawe talks of his study of Gabor Mate's work on addiction, not just to substances, but to behaviours that are no longer healthy or helpful despite the best of intentions. With subtle lighting changes there is transition from the story of his journey, to narrative explaining the Freudian theory of ego, and back again. It feels partly fascinating lecture, partly dark confessional, but wholly engaging as good storytelling should be.

Dawe speaks at frenetic pace but with perfect diction so that not one word is lost. He bares his soul and his monsters, and his descriptions are so articulate you feel present in the journey. He speaks with such warmth and honesty that the audience cannot help but engage and empathise.

Medicine is an emotional and intellectual experience which, based on the effusive applause on opening night, had a resoundingly positive impact on all.

Medicine is at the Bakehouse Theatre until 21st February, and then T.J. Dawe returns with Marathon, the story of the making of Medicine, 2-7th March.

Reviewed by Shelley Crooks – Glam Adelaide

Venue: Bakehouse Theatre, 255 Angas Street, Adelaide

Season: 14 – 21 February 2015

Duration: 75 minutes

Tickets: \$18-\$20

Bookings: Book through [FringeTix online](http://www.fringetix.com.au) or at a FringeTix box office (booking fees apply)
<http://www.glamadelaide.com.au/main/fringe-review-medicine/>