



THEATRE – The Last Continent – 3.5K

By Peter Maddern

The Bakehouse's passion for Sir Terry Pratchett's Discworld continues with *The Last Continent*, though in many ways this year's rendition it is a reversion to the past as this play is a remake of their 2009 production, thanks to a popular vote.

In keeping with Discworld traditions, things are and aren't what they seem, characters with various degrees of reality drift in and out and things and we are led to believe that a land that goes under the name of Ecks Ecks Ecks Ecks (XXXX) is not our very own.

The story revolves around the somewhat colourfully gowned academics of the Unseen University arriving in the aforesaid country in search of Rincewind the wizard who survives in his search for the town of Bugaup with a combination of cunning and a survival instinct that is somewhat hampered by cowardliness.

It's all good fun as Pamela Munt's working of Pratchett's book keeps the story going nicely over the two hours both as to speed and comprehension aided by her own guiding appearances as Footnote. Chris Irving as Rincewind plays his somewhat complex character with passion and gets us to like him even if his man isn't all that welcoming and Paul Messenger dominates his academic friends with indefatigable self-confidence and purpose, restrained only by the proper Mrs Whitlow, played delightfully by Bev Koch.

Of course, all the players take a number of roles – some human, some as animals, High O'Connor is Death and Samm Blackmore thrusts out her anger as the lightning thrower Island God.

If you are Discworld fan, then this is another fine show that again makes real (sort of) the whimsical written world of Pratchett.