

Compelling account of Thomas More by IpSkip at Bakehouse

James McCluskey-Garcia, gives a compelling account of the wronged Thomas More in Robert Bolt's *A Man For All Seasons*.

Peter Burdon, The Advertiser



Sir Thomas More was a great English scholar and statesman who met an untimely death.

His story has long been ripe for presentation on the stage, never more so than in Robert Bolt's hardy perennial *A Man For All Seasons*.

The play focuses on the last chapter of More's life, when his refusal to acknowledge Henry VIII as head of the Church of England saw him exiled from court and pursued relentlessly by the King's toadies.

Leading in IpSkip Productions first outing of the year is James McCluskey-Garcia, whose compelling account of the wronged More is deeply engaging. His dignity in the face of the most awful persecution is remarkable, and in large measure carries the play.



Likewise impressive, though from the unlovable side of proceedings, are Adrian Barnes's Cromwell, cunning and unscrupulous (and played with relish!) and Paul Briske's Norfolk, all brawn and no brain. Christopher Duncan is the chameleon-like Common Man, part actor, part chorus, and always insightful.

The others in More's orbit, his household and his former friends and colleagues, receive performances of variable strength, and a slight misfire which alludes rather more to an episode of *Blackadder* than to trenchant drama, but let that pass.

Bolt's play, from the mid '50s, shows its age, but the strength of the muscular text shines through, even in some occasionally frail vessels.

A Man For All Seasons

Bakehouse Theatre until January 18