

I Might Be Edgar Allen Poe

Theatre *****

Bakehouse Theatre, until March 15

EVERY Fringe festival there are a few fantastic performances which theatre goers really shouldn't miss out on and this is one of them. Dawson Nichols, who performed this show at the Adelaide Fringe to acclaim way back in 1998, is superb in this play about a mental patient who believes there might just be a chance he is Edgar Allen Poe. Beginning with Poe's *Silence — A Fable* may trick audience members into thinking this will be an entirely dark production, but it is alternately very funny and a showcase of a master performer delivering Poe classics such as *The Raven* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. Nichols transforms into many very amusing characters: Jacques Derrida explaining the eternal futility of the attempt to communicate, the pretentious "caffeinated" university lecturer, the sulky teenager. All are wonderful and the relatively lengthy production flies past too soon.

CAMERON ENGLAND

Five Stars