

Adelaide Fringe 2017 review: Smoking with Grandma

Tim Lloyd, The Advertiser
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Smoking with Grandma

Theatre ****

Bakehouse Studio, until February 25

THIS play from Hong Kong captures that feeling where the constant hope of salvation becomes set into the bones without the catharsis of release.

Cathy SK Lam has drawn on the history of Hong Kong, where many of the Kuomintang — the nationalists defeated by the Chinese Revolution in 1949 — were stranded as they tried to escape to Taiwan.

It is a great vehicle for actress Angel SY Chan to play a girl cleaning out her grandmother's home in 1996 as the last vestiges of a Kuomintang ghetto are removed prior to the British handing the colony back to Mainland China.

There she discovers a ballerina, a lover and a life caught in stasis by the promise of departure.

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