

SPRING ALIBI

Bakehouse Theatre

Until 14 Mar 2015

Review by Anthony Vawser

Can two people take the long, awkward, morally questionable road towards romance, and still have a happy future together? “Spring Alibi” provides a most entertaining and intriguing look at an unconventional courtship.

It is the kind of show that will likely surprise you by lingering in the mind long after you've left the theatre, despite its generally light-hearted nature. You may even find yourself unable to be totally sure what to think of it, even if (like one of the characters here) you know you had a good time watching (don't worry, you'll understand once you see it).

To go into detail regarding the plot turns of a play is something this critic never likes to do if he can avoid it; suffice to say that we get to know two characters – Marlene (Sue Huff) and Mac (Andy Northrup) – through their telephone conversations to other people. Director Kevin Tokarsky bravely and deftly has both actors share the stage – and what is essentially the same set – throughout the show, without ever actually being together in the same place until the end.

Linda Wood Edwards has written a provocative piece that is skilfully written for maximum buoyancy, and the actors provide a pair of very engaging portrayals, with Huff positively radiant and Northrup impressively tackling a problematic character and managing to make us like him. This reviewer's belief that the character remains problematic is not necessarily intended as a criticism; if “Spring Alibi” leaves you in any way dissatisfied, it is a good kind of dissatisfaction, the kind that will likely provide interesting discussion with friends over a drink afterwards.

The team behind “Spring Alibi” has brought their show all the way from Canada, and it's certainly worth you bringing yourself to the Bakehouse for a performance.