

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD FROM NOW

Bakehouse Theatre

Until 27 Feb 2016

Review by [Brian Godfrey](#)

Ava Karuso's "The History of the World From Now" is rather Stephen Kingish in its conception. Four young adults have awoken to discover that they could very well be the only four surviving humans of some sort of Apocalypse. Planes have just fallen from the sky, the internet doesn't work (oh no!), there is no power, ninety nine per cent of the world's population has simply vanished just leaving piles of clothes behind, and dogs have turned into ravaging beasts. Could it be an alien attack or some type of disease? No-one really knows.

This riveting tale is a fairly well disguised attempt at posing the old 'comfortable, technological society versus agrarian sustainability' argument – and it works.

Ester Karuso's deceptively simple set design of steel-like columns are moved around the stage by the actors to represent various unknown locations and all of a sudden, we realise that they symbolise buildings – extremely clever!

The young cast – Matt Abel-King, Odetta Quinn, Tahlee Leeson, Caroline Levien and Paul Musumeci all give beautifully sustained, powerful performances with no action overdone. The sad thing is that there is no program for this show (Thank God the internet is still working!), so I can't pick out individuals and have no idea of their acting backgrounds. One assumes from their performances that they are, or have been, drama students: of a very high standard.

Kudos must also go to director, Stephanie Baine for such a wonderfully amazing atmospheric piece of theatre.

Rating: 4 stars (out of 5)