

# THE HOME FRONT — RIP IT UP REVIEW

4 STARS



Bakehouse Theatre - Reviewed By Justina Ashman March 9, 2015

*The Home Front* is an ambitious endeavour of improvised theatre that explores the lives of three women in Adelaide during World War I. The audience are invited to pick a few key elements that determine character traits, relationships, and occupations, and from this initial dice-roll the cast creates rich characters and, scene by

scene, assembles a narrative that abounds in both humour and tragedy.

Catherine Crowley, Lynn Petersen, and Luisa Pauletto each create and portray vivid characters, and watching both their individual journeys and their relationships with each other unfold and develop is captivating. The easy banter and humour of the performers gives the play an engaging charm, and moments of silence and stillness, while at times awkward, are just as often incredibly powerful.

Director Heidi Silberman weaves her way through the set and performers like the invisible hand of God, introducing props and verbal prompts to shape each scene. This can be a source of great fun and also of great drama—with Silberman at times acting as a voice inside the characters' heads as she prods almost gleefully at their deepest vulnerabilities.

While improvisation results in a fascinating organic growth of the story, some extremely interesting narrative threads fizzle out without a satisfying resolution and the play merely skims the surface of the myriad of issues surrounding this period of history. So much is left unexplored, and it was hard to shake the niggling disappointment that the play didn't probe deeper into the subject matter.

Despite this, *The Home Front* remains an impressive and unique piece of theatre. A fascinating dip into history with endless variables and possibilities, it's a play worth seeing more than once.