



Adelaide Fringe Review 2018: The Empress and Me

Andrew O'Grady, The Advertiser
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The Empress and Me

Theatre

Bakehouse Theatre

Until March 2

Princess Der Ling (Lizzie Yu) is remembered as an author of books about her experiences as first lady in waiting to the Empress Dowager Cixi of China (1835-1908), but growing up and living in Japan, France, and the United States made her genuinely cosmopolitan.

The tale of a Chinese woman's life well lived, but often as the outsider, is portrayed in Ross Ericson's one-woman show performed by British actor Michelle Yim.

The play features onstage wardrobe changes as Yim strips down and dresses up as the narrative floats through the different periods of the princess's life. Yim's exuberant performance makes it easy to follow character changes.

It's an expository script full of historical information, with lots of quips. Attentiveness is a must to get the most out of what, in my opinion, is quite a feminine show. Its Australian premiere is at the Adelaide Fringe.