

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEW: Bakehouse Theatre's 'The Web' explores the perils of the internet and social media

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Bakehouse Theatre's new production "The Web" explores the perils of the internet. Picture: Ian Routledge. *Source:* Supplied

The Web

Bakehouse Theatre

Until November 2

The perils of the internet are writ large in Kate Mulvany's gritty drama *The Web* in a new Bakehouse Theatre production. Perhaps too large, but more of that in a moment.

The focus is on the relationship between two young men in a regional town, where Fred (Michael Lemmer), a loner from an outlying farm is unexpectedly befriended by the school's smart and popular head prefect, Travis (Andrew Thomas).

Entranced by Travis's charisma and his apparently worldly wisdom, Fred is introduced to the internet as part of Travis's attempt to

help him along with his studies in a "social experiment" that broadens Fred's horizon, apparently for the better.

Until it all goes terribly wrong, of course, and the dangers that are inherent in the burgeoning world of social media are brought into sharp relief.

Director Yasmin Gurreeboo sensibly lets the relationship between the two men lead throughout, elegantly handling a lumbering subplot involving Fred's mother, Ivy (Amy Victoria Brooks) and local cop Sergeant Tukovsky (Nathan Porteous).

Mulvany gives the game away too soon, and despite solid, committed acting throughout, much of the second act becomes an extended coda on a very long pedal point. But not for all, as the gasps of astonishment at each successive twist and turn amply revealed.