



Event Review

Review: Romeo and Juliet: Unzipped

Venue: Salisbury Playhouse

Date: 8 November, 2011

Reviewer: Meg Rushton

We all know the story of Romeo and Juliette – A tragic love story of two ‘star crossed lovers’ – you get the picture. But what happens when the Playhouse’s Mark Powell brutally unzips it?

I first thought it would be swapping “but soft, what light through yonder window breaks?” for “summer lovin’” (which – ironically – happened). But it seemed to be more of an exploration of the story and its characters, twisting and changing them, forcing them into a million alternative settings, leaving you internally debating whether the characters are who they seem at first glance.

The performance definitely wasn’t what I was expecting, with the chance to vandalise the set with Sharpies and discuss the performance afterward with the small-but-skilled cast and its director. The intimate venue allows for you to get lost in the performance (and for Romeo to tell me to ‘facebook him’).

Although I have nothing but praise for the performance, what does disappoint me is the fact that the production is showing for less than a week, which after only a week of rehearsal, seems like a shame, as we won’t get to see the performance evolve into what could be – yet already is – a polished and engrossing piece of theatre.