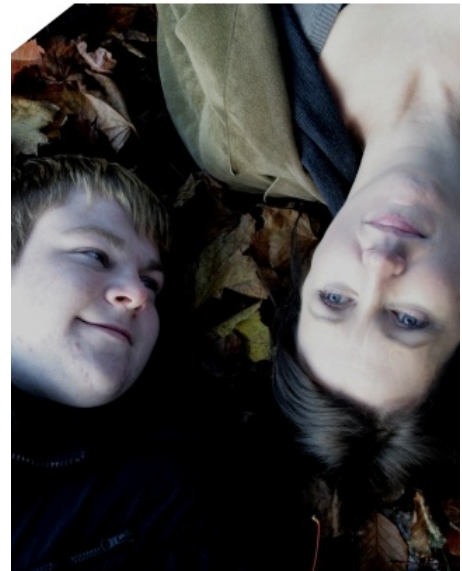


# THE REVIEWERS CLUB

## Theatre Review

Play: The Fragility of X  
Venue: Salisbury Playhouse  
Date: 17 November 2010  
Reviewer: Alicia Hooper



While looking for a theatre production to watch recently for my drama AS levels, I stumbled across the Fragility of X, the story of a young autistic boy and his mother who is over worked and under constant pressure from those around her. I knew prior to watching it that it was going to be a comedy, but little did I know how moving and painful some of the scenes were.

The production I saw was in the Salberg Studio within Salisbury Playhouse, this made the play feel very much more personal due to close seating to the acting space. The play begins with a business woman striding into her sitting room and writing down notes from a television programme. You wonder to yourself why everything seems to be protected by barriers of metal, the television, the heater, the electrical appliances and the reason why sticky tape holds ornaments in place. Then enter Timothy stage right.

The play has a fast paced rhythm to it, jumping from mass hysteria to moving silence, and although the fragility of X is a comedy I felt that the audience felt uncomfortable laughing, as although Timothy who I believed to be the comical character due to his outburst was funny, it was heart-breaking seeing his mother trying to settle him and fight against his own unknown strength. The piece was very much naturalistic until scene changes, which suddenly sprung a twist of slapstick to lighten the mood and break the audience away perhaps from becoming comfortable viewers simply watching a play.

The production was an unanticipated surprise and very much different to what I had expected, if you wish to see a play of simple humour and a happy ending, this is not the play for you. But for those wanting to see a production of comedy, pain, love and sorrow then look out for The Fragility of X.

*The Young Reviewers Club is run by The Unit,  
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