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PLAY AT 10 12

## The Well (Redux)



● Elizabeth Brennan in *The Well (Redux)* playing at La Mama Courthouse until December 8.

Photo: Sarah Walker

■ The Earth has spun off its axis and is spinning in space. Unleashed from its orbit around the sun, the planet gets cold and crazy. A climate change apocalypse is upon us and very strange things begin to happen. **Montezuma**, the **Aztec Emperor**, turns up in **Coburg**.

The universe of this play might be post-Einstein and post-apocalyptic, but it retains a firm footing in the sensibilities of the twenty-first century.

"I miss my mobile. I miss my guitar. I miss Google," **Gareth (Oliver Bailey)** laments. "Nothing is connected. Everything is free-floating and detached from concrete reality."

Including the audience as we collectively try to follow the action. This is a project in immersion and the audience join in with the actors following them around the performance space although without the same sense of purpose.

Directed by **Kate Brennan** and the play's writer **Robert Reid** (*The Joy of Text*), this is a challenging piece that asks its audience to come along for the ride.

But be warned, the ride is bumpy. It is not a play for the faint-hearted or faint of hearing as the dialogue is often swallowed by the endless shifting of position.

**Tom Molyneux**, playing a character called Director, does a great job in pulling together the energetic but sometimes earnest cast and the mini-narratives that make up the performance.

For all its futuristic innovation there is one moment which drags the performance back to contemporary reality or perhaps the directors were being ironic when they required only the female actors to strip to their matching black underwear as **Gareth** complained of the "endless repetition of history"?

*The Well (Redux)* is playing at La Mama's Carlton Courthouse until December 8.

**Performance Times:** Wed and Sun 6.30pm, Thurs, Fri, Sat 7.30pm

**Venue:** La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton.

**Bookings:** 9347 6142 or [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au)

- Review by Kathryn Keeble

AUSTRALIAN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY