

Actors own Night in tangled story

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Any Night

Written by and starring Daniel Arnold & Medina Hahn

Directed by Ron Jenkins

Runs everyday until Sunday, October 31 at 8 p.m.

TransAlta Art Barns (10330-84 Ave.)

\$21 for students



Walking out of the theatre after Fringe Theatre Adventure's season opener, *Any Night*, there's one predominant thought that naturally comes after seeing its ending: "I'm going to have to see that again."

Any Night consists of multiple twists that make the audience question what's reality and what's illusion. But by the show's conclusion, after every strange mystery presented has been explained, all the clues that were unknowingly dropped throughout the show become clear. In retrospect, these subtle hints become readily apparent throughout, and it's only natural to want to go back to try and find what you may have missed on the first viewing.

Following their previous internationally acclaimed show *Tuesdays and Sundays*, Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn have created another critical darling with *Any Night*. The plot revolves around a dancer named Anna (Hahn) who moves into a new apartment after a bad breakup. Anna falls for the man living above her, Patrick (Arnold), but their relationship is complicated by the night terrors and sleepwalking that plague Anna nightly. To tell anymore of the plot, though, might give away too much. Early on in the show, important plot points and future actions are foreshadowed through imagery and supposed hallucinations, all unbeknownst to an audience who are trying to understand what's really going on.

What Arnold and Hahn have created in *Any Night* is a puzzle. Throughout the show, individual pieces are given that hint at the ultimate conclusion, where the complete picture is revealed. As those puzzle pieces are presented, though, it can be disjointed and difficult to follow. *Any Night* frequently shifts between reality and hallucination, and between different points in time. All is explained eventually, but it's not hard to become lost or confused.

The finale itself provides a satisfying conclusion thanks to Arnold and Hahn's stellar writing and performances. Arnold easily juggles multiple personas throughout the show that add to the overall mystery, while Hahn gives a spirited yet believable performance in a difficult role that could devolve into a parody of itself in the hands of a less talented actress. Together, the two have a natural chemistry and complement each other greatly. Despite the exciting drama and suspense that comes from Anna's night terrors, arguably *Any Night's* best bits come through the

dialogue between Anna and Patrick when they're getting to know each other. The pair remain on stage for the entire 80 minutes and there's never a dull moment between the two of them.

Director Ron Jenkins never lets the audience relax for too long either, building an ominous and foreboding atmosphere around the show. He does this using minimal set pieces, with only a bed, the window and wall above it, and a set of stairs wheeled around the stage used to represent multiple locations. The sparse set design doesn't detract from the actual show though, as the fewer set pieces just give more attention to the two leads and adds to the uneasy feeling felt throughout *Any Night*.

Any Night is an entertaining, if at times confusing, experience. But all of the burning questions are answered by the end and you just may be willing to fork out the price of admission again to try and see what you missed.