



‘Low Tide in Glass Bay’ review

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‘Low Tide in Glass Bay’ has possibly the most satisfying final line of any play, ever. Pleasingly obscene and perfectly delivered by Robyn Wilson (playing the insecure teen, Robwyn), it provides an ideal conclusion to Deadpan Theatre’s thoroughly enjoyable play.

The small Welsh town of Tonypandy sets the backdrop for the drama, which centres around aunts Karen and Bronnie – a lesbian couple with a fondness for wine and a reluctance to accept adulthood. It is easy to forget there is an audience in their cosy living room strewn with books and empty bottles, as we are immersed in a hilarious domestic scene.

The nature of the aunts’ relationship becomes immediately apparent. A heated discussion about a pet cat sets the tone for the rest of the play: this is clearly a couple very much in love, but reluctant to let one another have the last word.

Artemis Howard and Eliot Salt are thoroughly convincing as the central pair, no doubt helped by their off-stage friendship; the fun they have had in writing the play (a product of four months’ work) is reflected in the audience’s reaction, as laughter is hearty and frequent.

The poignant moments in the play are some of the strongest, with various female relationships presented in a sensitive and humorous

way.

When Karen and Bronnie's comfortable life is disrupted by a family tragedy, it is their niece Robwyn who forces the two adults to confront their responsibilities. This shift in tone is skillfully rendered: the previously easy-flowing conversation becomes temporarily halted and jilted, with past conflicts resurfacing. The poignant moments in the play are some of the strongest, with various female relationships presented in a sensitive and humorous way.

Salt and Howard are complemented by a superb supporting cast: Robwyn's teen angst is both hilarious and relatable; Angus Whitehorn plays the weird but friendly neighbor, Owen, with brilliant comic timing, and Bryher Flanders portrays pushy parent, Lynette, as being amusingly irritating yet sympathetic. Katie Wells brilliantly plays the girl we all love to hate, whilst Hector Dyer's George embodies all the awkwardness and insecurity of an infatuated teenage boy.

Thanks to a witty script and brilliant performances, it is impossible not to feel invested in every character (except, perhaps, for Kerry). And so, just as it's hard to leave a good party, it was sad when the lights went down on such an endearing show. Deadpan Theatre's next production will definitely be worth catching, especially as it's also been written by Howard and Salt: Bristol's hottest comedy duo.

'Changing Partners' is on at the [Alma Tavern Theatre](#), Clifton from 23rd to 25th October.

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