

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018 REVIEW- The Song of Lunch *****

The Song of Lunch starring Robert Bathurst and Rebecca Johnson, directed by Jason Morell, is a visual and auditory delight.



It is a lyrical verse tragi-comedy deftly created by Christopher Reid which follows Bathurst's stream of consciousness as he goes to lunch to recapture the heart of a now married woman.

The play is stunning, due to the symbiosis of a deeply intelligent script and an exceptionally classy performance by both actors.

The staging is profoundly beautiful, as the characters' actions and surroundings are mirrored through animation. Props are limited to two wooden chairs which allows the setting to transcend physical boundaries and represent different realities; switching between the mind of the man and the restaurant itself. The set-up is simplistic but elegant, allowing the audience to fully immerse themselves in the thoughts of the actors.

Both actors do more than just give life to the script, they create another world. Bathurst and Johnson are able to manipulate the poetry to create smooth but impassioned and

convincing performances. It is clear that the use of a pared back stage is to great effect in placing the focus on the language. Bathurst effectively strings the audience along with him; it is difficult to not be enamoured with his woeful tale because it is delivered so sympathetically.

This is a performance which is really impressive. The language and staging are exquisitely choreographed. By the end, one wishes they could turn back time and watch it all over again!

Pleasance Forth until 27th