

Watch the Detectives at the Sherman, Cardiff

Identify the sleuth among all the images

By IFAN PAYNE

REVIEW

YOGHURT. I dropped. I dropped, dropped yoghurt on my tie, yoghurt on my tie I dropped today I dropped yoghurt I thought while watching watchers Watch The Detectives.

You get the picture? An exploration of words and images. As the programme for the production of *Watching The Detectives* at the Sherman Theatre states, the company "have put together a part-scripted, part-devised, part-improvised event, which also allows its audience to suggest ways in which the action might proceed. It uses a diverse array of techniques, movement as well as drama and influences from Chandler to Shakespeare."

Identifying the post-Pinteresque-charged banality of words and relationships seemed to come easy to the stylish Robert Wilson.

In attempting not only to suggest aspects of the detective in popular fiction but also to examine and display some of the

causes of criminal behaviour, the central thrust of the production becomes somewhat diffused.

The evening perhaps lacks the tension that comes from taking a concept and holding to it tenaciously.

The experience is partly that of watching drama school exercises but it is also that of watching Tim Hopkins, a genuine actor, amongst this talented company, who can hold the audience, engrossed, in the palm of his hand.

His is a name to keep an eye out for as he now moves northwards to work with Scottish Opera.

If you enjoy theatrical games, if you enjoy being stimulated about the nature of theatre, or if you just enjoy watching a good young actor at work, watching *Watching The Detectives* will be fun.

It is smooth and goes down easily but has that tangy, hard-edged taste just like the yoghurt, just like I dropped the yoghurt, I dropped just like my multi-coloured tie.

"other influences range from the pinteresque charged banality of words and relationships to stylised minimalism of Robert Wilson and the New York cabaret of improvised acting."

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