

Memorable moments from the black void

**This Uncharted Hour
Tasmania Performs
Theatre Royal, Today only**

REVIEW

FROM the black void, a cabinet of curiosities is progressively revealed: a cello, a dead dog, a blood-red block – could it be a bath, a well, a coffin?

Populating the world is a series of individuals, unhinged by a past that threatens to overwhelm their present and future. Memories collide, a

ghost holds our hand, words are spoken that can never be taken back. So builds Robert Jarman's very fine production of this intriguing play by Finegan Kruckemeyer.

Part psychological drama, part play of big ideas, at its emotional core is a life event commonly employed in family

drama. But it is not so much the what, but the how that triumphs.

There are superb performances across the cast. Ben Winspear's muscular but constrained Adam reveals what a fine technical actor he is.

Brett Rogers brings great clarity and humour to the part of Luka, as does Mel King to Sarah. Kai Raisberg finds a charged lightness to Lucas, a perfect counterpoint to Jane

Longhurst's wrenching performance as Penny.

But it is the beautifully composed images that may remain longest. Jarman's design is complemented by the finest lighting design (Danny Pettigill) I've seen on a Hobart drama stage.

Tasmania Performs delivers the rarest of treats – a locally produced adult drama that deserves to play globally.

MICHAEL McLAUGHLIN