

THE LOVER

BY MARGUERITE DURAS
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY FLEUR DARKIN & JEMIMA LEVICK



20 JANUARY –
3 FEBRUARY 2018



THEATRE
MADE IN
EDINBURGH

ALL EDINBURGH THEATRE.COM

Reviews, news and previews edited by Thom Dibdon

[HOME](#)
[Home](#)
[About and](#)
[Copyright](#)


- [Contact](#)
- [The Star System](#)
- [Credits and Thanks](#)
- **WHAT'S ON**
 - [On Stage This Week](#)
 - [On Stage Next Week](#)
 - [On Stage the following week](#)
 - [Amateur Company Listings](#)
 - [Festival Theatre Listings](#)
 - [King's Theatre Listings](#)
 - [Lyceum listings](#)
 - [Playhouse Listings](#)
 - [Studio Theatre Listings](#)
 - [Traverse Listings](#)
- **NEWS**
- **REVIEWS**
 - [Christmas 2017](#)
 - [Bedlam](#)
 - [Church Hill Theatre](#)
 - [Festival Theatre](#)
 - [King's Theatre](#)
 - [Playhouse](#)
 - [Royal Lyceum](#)
 - [Traverse](#)
 - [Adam House](#)
 - [Bongo Club](#)
 - [Brunton Theatre](#)
 - [George Watson's College](#)
 - [Pleasance Theatre](#)
 - [St Bride's Centre](#)
 - [St Ninian's](#)
 - [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#)
 - [St Serf's](#)
- **PREVIEWS**
- **COMPANIES**
 - [Amateur company links](#)
- **MADE IN EDINBURGH**
 - [Made in Edinburgh reviews](#)
- **BLOG**
 - [Spoken Word](#)
- **PLAYSCRIPTS**

« [Ronnie and Jonny: Friends Disunited](#)
[PDP-UP Duets \(fragments of love\)](#) »

[EDFRINGE 16](#) | [REVIEWS](#)

The Rose and Crown

August 25, 2016 | By [Hugh Simpson](#) | [Reply](#) [More](#)

★★★★☆ Mysterious

theSpace on Niddry Street (Venue 9) 23 – 27 August 2016
Review by [Hugh Simpson](#)

Assiduously performed, and building up an air of mystery, *The Rose and Crown* has much about it that is striking

AE uses our own and third party cookies. If you continue browsing we consider you accept the use of these cookies.

That's fine

bemoan the state of their lives – something they may have cause to regret once a mysterious stranger arrives.



Oliver Cookson, Hannah Bradley, Chris Bain, Hilary Davies, Beverly Wright and Charles Finnie. Photo Arbery Productions

A problem arises due to the piece's television origins, in that it largely features a group of people sitting in a public bar. Arbery Productions' version – essentially the Grads' offering from this year's SCDA competition – is given on a thrust stage. Actors remaining still with their backs to the audience cannot be avoided. This not only looks static and uncomfortable, but leads to the odd audibility problem.

Some wobbles in the accents also surface, but the standard of performance is high. Oliver Cookson's grumpy Mr Stone and Hilary Davies's Mrs Reed strike a suitably dour note. Chris Bain and Hannah Bradley convince as young couple the Randles, with Bradley's spot-on timing as Ivy adding a much needed note of humour.

Bev Wright does very well as the cantankerous Ma Peck, a role that seems to be the prototype for endless EastEnders matriarchs but discharged with style and life, while Charles Finnie's Harry is a complex characterisation. Oliver Trotter takes on the difficult role of the Stranger with an appropriately icy calmness.

prosaic

Martin Foreman's direction strives hard to overcome the problems of the acting space already mentioned, and largely does so. The mixing of the realistic and the mystical that features in much of Priestley's drama is well done – the problem lies in the original play. Like many mysterious pieces of drama, it carefully builds up an atmosphere that is always going to be lost when what is really going on is revealed.

An Inspector Calls, of course, solves this problem by leaving much unresolved. Here, the denouement is prosaic and even preachy, as if Priestley was lamenting how the togetherness that the War had forced on people had been replaced by bitterness and self-absorbed carping.

This, then, is no lost classic, but is certainly an intriguing if slight work, largely done justice by a committed cast.

Running time: 35 minutes

theSpace on Niddry St (Venue 9), Niddry Street, EH1 1TH

Tuesday 23 – Saturday 27 August 2016

Daily at 9.10 pm

Book tickets on the EdFringe website: <https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/rose-and-crown>

Company website: <http://www.arberyproductions.co.uk>

Twitter: [@roseandcrownedi](https://twitter.com/roseandcrownedi)

Facebook: [TheRoseAndCrownFringe](https://www.facebook.com/TheRoseAndCrownFringe)

ENDS

Tags: [#EdFringe](#), [Arbery Productions](#), [Bev Wright](#), [Charles Finnie](#), [EdFringe 2016](#), [Hilary Davies](#), [Hugh Simpson](#), [J.B. Priestley](#), [Made In Edinburgh](#), [Martin Foreman](#), [Oliver Cookson](#), [Oliver Trotter](#), [Review](#), [The Grads](#), [The Rose and Crown](#), [Theatre](#), [theSpace on Niddry](#)

Your comments

<input type="text"/>	Name (required)
<input type="text"/>	Email (required; will not be published)
<input type="text"/>	Website

Submit Comment



ON THIS WEEK

Ending Sun 28
Jan

Assembly Roxy

[Elephants](#): Thurs –
Sat.

Festival Theatre

[Miss Saigon](#): Wed
– Sun.

Lyceum Theatre

[The Lover](#): Tue –
Sat.

Rose Theatre

[Rabbie](#): Tue – Sat.

Summerhall

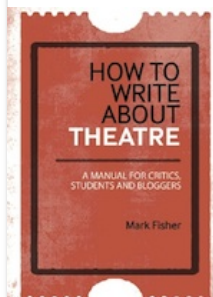
[Oor Rabbie](#): Thurs.

Trafalgar Lodge

[Malky](#): Sun 21.

Traverse

[Manipulate](#)
[Festival](#): Sat 27 –
Sat 3.



[Open call for
Saughtonhall](#)

[Superstars wanted](#)

[Site specific
audition](#)

[More dates for
Aulos Auditions](#)

[Elephants in the
Roxy](#)

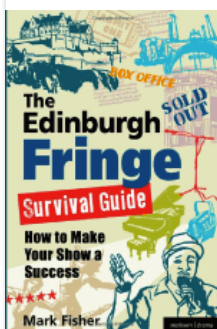
[Fame tours to
King's in 2018](#)

[Open Call for
Sorcerer](#)

[MAMA Revue 2018](#)

[Nail pulled from
Last Ship](#)

[LYAMC Auditions
2018](#)



Make
your show
a success!

[Click here to buy](#)



AMATEUR MATTERS

[Open call for Saughtonhall](#)

[Celebration: Revue 2018](#)

[Superstars wanted](#)

[More dates for Aulos Auditions](#)

[Elephants in the Roxy](#)

[Open Call for Sorcerer](#)

- [Gorebridge Casting Call](#)
- [Spring Awakening Auditions](#)

LATEST PRODUCTION NEWS

- [Superstars wanted](#)
- [Site specific audition](#)
- [More dates for Aulos Auditions](#)
- [Fame tours to King’s in 2018](#)
- [Open Call for Sorcerer](#)

THE STAGE APP NEW!



Start your free 7-day trial today!

Subscribe to The Stage at www.thestage.co.uk/digital

January 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
« Dec						

ARCHIVES

Archives

Select Month ▼



© 2018 All Edinburgh Theatre.com. All rights reserved. Design by [Stuff and Content](#).