Attempts on her Life - Review

Reviewed by: Waikato Times

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Reviewer: Ben Stanley

A play with a script but no set characters and a main persona who never appears.

It's an unusual premise for a performance, but strangely enough, *Attempts on her Life,* in its last performance at Hamilton's Meteor Theatre tonight, pulls it off. But only if you're willing to think outside the square.

The performance, part of this year's Ignition 2009 Hamilton Fringe Festival, is split into 17 different segments varying in length from 15 minutes to less than 30 seconds, giving each of the show's 10 actors a chance to shine through their translation of the Martin Crimp-written script.

The segments, beginning with an interesting airport terminal scene, all allude to the central figure of the play Anna, Annie, Anya or Annushka. This character changes throughout, from a sports car, to a victim of rape, to a movie star, and in a penultimate scene, a young pornographic actress.

Some of the language can be quite full on; with one of actor Clive Lamdin's pieces stirring memories in me of *Last Tango in Paris.*

And while the cast of *Attempts on her Life,* all third year Waikato University theatre studies students, are not at Marlon Brando's level of acting proficiency, they do remarkably well, each holding their own in what must have been an incredibly challenging performance to get their heads around.

The pace admittedly ebbs and flows a little, but overall, a commendable effort, and a pretty decent way to ward off all winter blues.