

Theatre/Arts

Something
unsensible
theme of play

A Shakespearean anniversary

A NEW comedy is set to begin playing at The Court Theatre this month, promising to have the audience in stitches.

The Streaker is written by Gregory Cooper and directed by Mark Hadlow.

The show is based around a middle-aged man played by Mark Wright who lost his job at a call centre.

When a Christchurch radio station offers \$1 million to streak naked at the Super Rugby final he has nothing to lose.

When writing the playwright Cooper was inspired by a friend's story of a straight-laced relative who was egged on to streak at a cricket match and was absolutely mortified afterwards.

"The story of someone sensible doing something very unsensible appealed."

The show contains coarse language, adult themes and nudity and is recommended for a mature audience.

The show will run from September 17 to October 22. To book tickets go to <https://courttheatre.org.nz>

King Lear by William Shakespeare
Directed by Julian Anderson
Reviewed by Georgia O'Connor-Harding

CANTERBURY Repertory Theatre's latest production of William Shakespeare's *King Lear* is a dark play showcasing ageless acts of humanity.

To mark the 400-year anniversary since Shakespeare's death, the company has produced a fine yet tragic show.

The show was first staged in the 1600s and is ranked with *Hamlet* as one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies.

The themes of betrayal, insanity and reconciliation are as relevant today as they were in the Elizabethan society where the show was set.

What stood out most was the timeless conflict portrayed between siblings and families over family inheritance.

Rivalry over possessions has been one of the biggest contributors to family conflict since the beginning of time, making the show relatable to audiences today.



DARK TRAGEDY:
(From left): Annette Thomson, as Goneril; Michael Adams, as King Lear; Emma Price, as Regan; and Ella Wallace, as Cordelia.

The demonstration of greed and cruelty in *King Lear* causes division between three of the sisters featured in the show.

It is about a king ready to retire who divides his inheritance between his three daughters depending on how much they love him.

The king's eldest daughters falsely flatter the king, while his youngest daughter, Cordelia, refuses and is disowned as a result.

The show takes the audience on a journey as the king falls into madness, which is brilliantly portrayed by Michael Adams.

Although Adams is hardly the show's only star, considering the

depth of such a strong cast.

Emma Price, who plays the role of Regan, was outstanding. I felt she was particularly evil with her two-faced personality.

I was most impressed with how realistic the show's violent scenes looked – it was horrifying when Gloucester, played by Dimitri Gibara, had his eyes ripped out.

Although the show is presented in its traditional Shakespearean language, visually it is a modern adaption, with a mixture of current and Elizabethan inspired costumes.

The minimal setting casts the actors into the spotlight which, in a way, worked in their favour

by accentuating their talent.

Many people like myself may find Shakespeare difficult to understand, but the strong acting and themes are more than enough to make this show worthwhile.

However, I was disappointed by the turn-out with only about 20 people in the audience. But I am certain there are lots of Shakespeare fans out there, and hopeful that the well-deserving cast will attract large audiences to what truly is a raw performance.

King Lear will run until September 9. To book tickets, go to <http://www.repertory.nz>