

Review: MUM

By Amber Roderick

MUM, Theatre Royal Plymouth

Mum is a brutally honest play which takes the audience on a roller-coaster journey through every parent's worst nightmare. It explores the raw whirlwind of early motherhood, with the reality of dark yet comedic moments.

The unique play at Theatre Royal Plymouth is an outstanding collaboration between Francesca Moody Productions (original producer of Fleabag) and writer Morgan Lloyd Malcolm. The Olivier award-winning playwright is extremely clever in her writing of the characters, all of which have a strong and poignant part to play. The three-woman production is presented by extremely talented actors (Sophie Melville, Cat Simmons and Denise Black) who will leave the audience on the edge of their seats.

The story revolves around first time mum, Nina, who struggles with motherhood, anxiety and mental health. But don't let this put you off - her portrayal is brutally honest yet hilarious. Tonight is Nina's first night off - she plans to drink wine, eat pizza and let go with her best friend. But fate and real life may have other ideas. Her Mum, Mother-in-law and best friend bring truthfulness to the story whilst adding colour to Nina's ongoing nightmare.

In an intimate setting, The Drum stage, with committed actors, the story is brought to life by subtle sound effects, simple costumes and realistic yet exciting lighting. While the set is effective yet understated - the audience has no choice but to hang off every move the talented actors make.

Mums, Mother-in-laws, friends and daughters - there may be no perfect relationships. But you can be certain that this story will show you all of the complicated ones. You will laugh, maybe cry a little, while you watch a unique story of motherhood unfold. The show finishes in a flash, but the emotion takes you on a journey you'll never forget.