

Review: Sorry, You're Not A Winner

By Amber Roderick

***Sorry, You're Not A Winner* at Theatre Royal Plymouth**

Two best friends, same background, but different futures planned. A story of social classes, dreams, growing up, and not knowing where you belong.

Fletch and Liam have been friends since they were 6 and have been side by side ever since. Right at the start of the play we learn that Liam has got into Oxford University, which is worlds apart from the streets they drink beer and vodka in. Fletch secretly adores his best friend and although he is proud of him, he does not want to be left behind.

The audience get to see the different stages of Fletch and Liam's friendship, as well as their separate struggles and milestones. We route for their genuine companionship, but it is easy to wonder whether they are too dissimilar to stick together. They are portrayed as two cool guys in their own right; but we see them fight, love and grow in unique circumstances. Girls get in the way, as well as university, babies and prison – but will their bond remain?

The actors portray the contrasting social classes expertly. Kyle Rowe plays Fletch as a perfect loveable rogue and while people will route for him; they may worry for him too. Rowe does not miss a moment and carries the play from start to finish. Eddie-Joe Robinson is the ideal Liam. His genuine confusion of where he belongs is raw and emotional.

Samuel Bailey has written a fantastically exciting script full of ups and downs through changes and journeys. He is extremely genuine in his writing and exploration of social mobility. A talented young writer who has produced a striking story about aspirations and flaws.

You may not leave The Drum with a conclusion, but *Sorry, You're Not A Winner* is a definite must see.