

**THE ADELAIDE ADVERTISER REVIEW Elegies: A Song Cycle SINGular Productions & Six Foot Something Productions State Opera Studio**

Review by Ewart Shaw

## **Fine moments in Finn's Salute**

"I SING dead people." William Finn's salute to family and friends is an act of memorial and thanksgiving, eloquently delivered in a moving presentation of his song cycle *Elegies*.

Directed with tact and humour by David Lampard, five of our best musical theatre talents breathe life and drama into witty, though sometimes self indulgent, lyrics and elusive melodies.

Finn takes his life and transmutes it into song to remember special events; Mark's death from AIDS, his mother's final drive, his unfortunate history with dogs and the impact of September 11.

A simple set of grass-green carpet and benches, adorned with Harmony Nicholas's remarkable projected images, gives the singers freedom to move. Elizabeth Campbell brings to her songs the intelligence and commitment she devotes to her operatic repertoire and projects emotional depth. Cherie Boogaart extends her vocal and emotional range and tears into Passover song with glee. Mark Oates has the songs most directly associated with Finn, delivering them with acuity, while tenors Adam Goodburn, fearless in the vocal stratosphere, and the whimsical Paul Talbot shine out. You don't have to be Jewish, gay or American to get a lot to enjoy and ponder from these songs.

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