

# STAGE

## **Someone Who'll Watch Over Me**

Published Thursday 9 October 2008 by Evelyn Curlet

Set in a sparse cell in Beirut, Lebanon, three hostages attempt to retain their sanity in the face of constant confinement and possible death. Inspired by the hostage conflict of the eighties, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* still resonates today as Westerners venture out to danger destinations such Iraq or Afghanistan only to find themselves kidnapped as unwitting pawns in much greater power struggles.

Frank Guinness' script is an absolute powerhouse of writing. It is rare that the political is made so brilliantly personal - with startling accuracy and deft craftsmanship, he creates absolutely distinct, human characters, thereby managing to capture the horror of the situation without melodrama. The subtlety of the script and structuring of the situation sees to it that the play is both entertaining and devastating.

The production would falter, however, without performers capable of doing justice to McGuinness' writing. Imperial House Productions proves itself up to the task.

Charlie Walker-Wise is bold and bombastic as Irish hostage Edward, captivating with quick quips and ready temper. Sam Hoare impresses as American Adam, physically powerful but gentle in spirit, the emotional centre of the piece.

**Robert Gill's Michael is beautifully observed, capturing the peculiar temperament of the little Englander, pedantic and romantic by turn.**

Although all deliver precise and persuasive characterisations, the triumph here is in their fluid interaction, ensuring the pace never drops, that moments of chaotic activity are realised as clearly as those of tragic stillness. Director Oliver Baird has evidently collaborated closely with his talented cast to great effect.

Set in the appropriately cramped confines of Baron's Court Theatre, this excellent play comes vividly to life in Imperial House's fine production.

Production information

By: Frank McGuinness

Management: Imperial House Productions

Cast: Robert Gill, Sam Hoare, Charlie Walker-Wise

Director: Ollie Baird