



THE LAST FIVE YEARS SIX FOOT SOMETHING / 2007

THE ADVERTISER: Samela Harris

What a creamy new company. Six Foot Something Productions has more class than a high school graduation. Suddenly the vertiginous gulf of the Little Theatre is vanquished as sleek, polished wooden stairs ascend from the stage, pausing on a long performance landing before rising to meet the balcony – and the performers can glide and stride, sit and sing, gaining fluid use of the whole theatre space.

No expense has been spared on this smart little show. It features a six-piece orchestra onstage – a sublime Matthew Carey gathering of talent. Two cellos of exquisite tone and musicians who play with as much relish as expertise. Jason Robert Brown's music is as beautifully complex as Sondheim – but everyone is at one with it. Except, perhaps, the sound operator who on opening night failed to lift Dianne K. Lang's amplification above the accompaniment. A pity in a show in which the songs are also the narrative. As the title suggest, it is a relationship story, but told in opposing chronologies – while Jamie moves forward, Cathy tracks backwards – from first love to parting.

David Lampard's direction is astute. Apart from the sound issue, no detail is overlooked and, aided by the vocal versatility of his performers, he evokes a strong sense of time and place which gives the show its depth.

Both Lang and Paul Talbot are marvellous and expressive singers – Talbot, particularly well showcased in this production. He is an exceptional all-rounder. At the very end, the glance of abject sorrow that he delivers to his estranged carries such acute pathos that it brings a tear to the eye, even of a jaded critic.



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