The Cautionary Tale of Barry Von Peabody and the Scarlet St Theatre

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Reviewed by Richard Watts

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Reviewer rating:

La Mama

Until April 22, Tue 6.30pm, Wed 8.30pm, Thu-Fri 9pm, Sat-Sun 4pm \$15-\$25

IMPRESARIO Barry Von Peabody is not all he seems; nor is the Scarlet Street Theatre in which he and ragtag performers ply their trade.

This cleverly staged puppet melodrama, created and performed by Jacob Williams, suffers from being overlong and complex - Von Peabody's life is revealed in a series of flashbacks - and Williams lacks the vocal prowess to distinguish the voices of his characters. But while the script needs work, the staging is excellent, provoking both gasps and laughs.

The handcrafted aesthetic cleverly references 1950s cinematic language, and the sound design is flawless. Inventive, engaging and idiosyncratic storytelling.

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