

I would like to thank you again for the invite to see Am I Happy Yet? I really enjoyed the experience and got a lot out of it.

Firstly, congratulations on the industry that you three women demonstrated. I was gobsmacked by what was devised over a three-day period, equally I was very impressed by the ability of the actor to read and perform so effectively without any interruption in pace.

Sadly, I was 10 minutes late as I took the wrong turn off-still finding my way around Ballarat and surrounds - so I missed the opening which I really would have liked to have seen.

I thought the premise of a surprise party was a good one to create a tension. I also thought the flashbacks (disjoints in time) worked well. I was unclear about the nature of the 'thought bubble' off to the side. The dialogue was already an exploration of private thoughts in a public space so I was unclear about the function of this other voice. Perhaps there was an explanation of this at the beginning which I had missed, so if this was the case please ignore this comment.

I was also a little unclear about the intention behind some of the vignettes and thought perhaps there was not enough variation on the ideas to provide a new insight or different perspective on the issue of sadness/ depression. No doubt, these nuances will become stronger with subsequent drafts.

I felt very comforted by this piece and it was wonderful seeing how 'normal' it is for others to experience such anxieties, insecurities and lulls. It did strike me that as a society we do not readily admit or know how to talk about very well these less 'pleasing' faces of ourselves. So I think this piece has great merit and is an idea that whilst 'enormous' is one worthy of exploration.

As a portrait of a woman experiencing these differing emotional states I thought the piece was effective but wondered how the piece will move beyond portrait into a 'play' or if indeed this was the intention. I am very much looking forward to seeing how this piece is developed and shaped. I can't wait for the finished product.

As a teacher, I would have loved for my VCE Theatre Students to have seen this, as it would be great for them to have had a glimpse into the process of developing a piece of theatre. So if there are any more projects like this I would be keen to know about them so I can bring students along. I'm sure other teachers would love to do so as well, and that not only includes drama teachers but could include visual art, music and literature teachers- what a great way to introduce students to the writing!

All the very best for this project and please pass on my support and gratitude for your work to the other members of this team. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take part in this viewing.