

MR HOLGADO by Christopher William Hill

Conrad believes there is a tiger by the name of Sigmund with a penchant for champagne truffles living in his wardrobe in Christopher William Hill's delightful and sometimes gleefully grotesque new play. Set in the fictional town of Schwartzgarten it centres on Conrad's (Daniel Naddafy) obsession with his wardrobe which proves not only to be possibly inhabited by the tiger but a stranger called Mr Holgado! Things get worse for Conrad when his father (an excellent Sandy Grierson) apparently drowns in the Penguin pool at the zoo and a Mr Van der Bosch comes to stay with Conrad and his up-tight mother (a strenuous Cath Whitfield). Sandy Grierson, doubling as Van der Bosch, has hilariously modelled his creation on Alec Guinness's character in *The Ladykillers* and when we were told that he likes anchovy and herring Paste the reaction (yuck!) to this startling news united all of the audience and made us sympathise even more with Conrad's dilemma. Daniel Naddafy is splendid as Conrad who provides bags of energy and a total belief in the existence of his tiger and although over-characterised, Cath Whitfield manages to keep the plot going at a pretty pace. Mark Melville's music composition is a delight with delicious quotes from Danny Elfman's film music, and a practical, good looking set by Kai Fischer allows the action to flow smoothly in Matthew Lenton's playfully macabre and exuberant production.



Mr Holgado is a highly recommended production – take the grandchildren: they'll have a terrific time, and so will you!

Ted Craig

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