

## Review: Mairead

16 feb, 2019 in Reviews by [Kira Bach Pedersen](#)



By Kira Bach Pedersen

In a warehouse, miles from anywhere, four people are locked up inside four concrete grey cells. In an effort to fathom out what is going on, Peter, Noah and Kate slowly discover that all roads lead back to the woman in the last cell: Mairead. Mairead, whose name is also the title of the play, is the main connection in an emotional hurricane, where conspiracy theories about personal relations abound.

The intimate, square stage is the perfect setting for this emotional version of an Escape Room. The sparse scenography, with warm lightbulbs cleverly

creating/reflecting the characters' changing moods, ensure that we never take our eyes off the four trapped and miserable souls before us. All four characters provide wonderful depth as we witness them falling apart, one by one. We are with them both physically and psychologically, whether or not we have been in their exact situation ourselves.

With Tanja Mastilo's well-written text, Nina Larissa Bassett's direction and formidable performances from the actors, MAIREAD comes together so well. Timing and precision make for the kind of honest and convincing production that only really good performance art can. And the fact that the playwright plays with different genres, giving us a fine balance of mystery, excitement and comedy is just an extra plus.

These peoples' desperation to find answers and freedom from their cells is so well conveyed, that the sudden flashbacks late in the show, despite being mood-creating, seem a little unnecessary in an otherwise well-played, well-defined experience. In a relatively long performance, without interval, such as this, these flashbacks do not contribute much and the otherwise impressive intensity wanes somewhat. At the end of the play, we are again emotionally battered by the poor characters on stage, and once again totally spellbound.

I give MAIREAD five big stars and a warm recommendation. The performance is in English and although there is a lot of dialogue, anyone with reasonable English can easily follow. Concepts like love, passion and revenge will never be the same again after having seen MAIREAD.

Who: Why Not Theatre Company  
Where: [Teatret ved Sorte Hest](#), Copenhagen  
When: 15. feb. – 9. mar. 2019  
Photo: Aleksander S. Mastilo