

REVIEW THE ADVENTURES OF ALVIN SPUTNIK, DEEP SEA EXPLORER

By Lucy Kingston



We were given strict instructions as we entered The Menagerie at the Royal Croquet Club for Alvin Sputnik. There would be no readmission if you were to leave during the show. High stakes for a play presented as a good family option. We crossed our fingers that recent trips to the portaloos would get us through and dived into the dark tent.

Alvin Sputnik creator and sole performer Tim Watts was waiting for the audience on stage. He was dressed in what looked like a retro pilots outfit, seated in front of a computer, with a projector screen next to him. Our family, and the rest of the audience, was intrigued from the start.

The journey of Alvin Sputnik took us to a dystopian and lonely world, to an earth that is covered by ocean and to meet

people living completely alone with their grief. Moving and powerful, this is a strong and memorable story that had us all enchanted. It was a simple and personal adventure that also had something of a moral lesson at its core, along with some gentle humour.

Alvin's adventure was portrayed in sometimes breathtakingly original and beautiful ways. The show combines puppetry with gorgeous animation and uses music and lighting to great effect. The show is categorised in the program as a puppet show, I personally found the animation the most powerful method used and enjoyed the way the show uniquely has a real performer interacting with the animation to tell the story.

It's an intense hour of theatre, especially for younger children. Some didn't make it through, leaving perhaps due to the strength of emotions portrayed, or perhaps because of the inevitable need to visit the portaloos. For older kids and adults, it was a very special adventure to take this Fringe.