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Dispatches from The Fringe- No pot of gold at the end of the Rainbow

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Rainbow by Emily Jenkins

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

All that glisters is not gold is unfortunately the case with [Royal Court](#), New Writer Emily Jenkin's latest play, *Rainbow*.

Directed by Jenkins for [BoxedCar Theatre](#) and [Sell A Door Theatre Company](#), *Rainbow* follows three men whose stories unfold through a series of three interlinking monologues. Russ, a shady debt collector with a passion for Radio 4, Martin, a bored school teacher who hasn't had a relationship since *The Matrix* was released and Tom, a kind of innocent abroad caught up in events beyond his comprehension, find their lives interweaving in a fairly uninteresting way, culminating in a less than satisfying conclusion. With the most interesting character, Tom's sister, never actually onstage and with writing that felt forced and strained where imagery, similes and descriptions were far too predictable and clichéd to be truly interesting, the occasional funny line just wasn't enough to make this story engaging. However Jenkins does elicit strong performances from her cast, despite the set design by Mike Lees comprised of three narrow, raised platforms which appeared restrictive. Only Kyle Treslove as the innocent Tom really managed to negotiate this successfully, delivering a wonderfully passionate performance. Oliver Answorth as the hard man Russ, struggled to look easy within the confined space and James Hender as the self-absorbed Martin also looked constricted. But Jenkin's direction kept the energy high and the pace moving, ensuring that performances were stronger than the confines that surrounded them.

In essence *Rainbow* is a play that aspires to offer the red pill from *The Matrix*. In fact it's really offering the blue one. But it does have some excellent performances.

Rainbow runs daily at the Zoo Southside until August 27th. Show begins at 4.45 p.m., admission is £9.00



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