

Fate Review by Cheryl Threadgold in Melbourne Observer

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Fate is a story about taking chances and it hits the jackpot. There is so much going on in this explosion of theatre, hip hop and singing that is fresh and vibrant.

Directed by Dave Cuong Nguyen and Dave Kelman this production is clever, adventurous and funny. One of the great strengths of the production (among many) is its fabulous imaginative staging where bodies become part of the set morphing into cars, human fruit machines and Great Theft Auto, the video game.

The performance begins with a tale of the Gods playing a mythic game of dice. What follows are interconnected stories of choice, chances and destiny; narrative threads that engage the huge stellar cast of actors and musicians.

There is an amazing amount of talent in this young cast of performers and musicians. There are many standouts among the cast. Lan Chu is particularly sweet as the vulnerable Charlie. The original music performed by Massive Fam Choir bring something really magical to this production.

Fate has a powerful underlying message aimed once again at deconstructing our collective vision of the Lucky Country. But it is a message told with class. One of the most poignant scenes in an age where politicians in Canberra are pedaling furiously to dehumanize asylum seekers gambling with their lives to come here, is a human refugee boat holding the entire multicultural cast.

The project came about as a collaboration between the artists of Flemington Theatre Group, Massive Hip Hop Choir, Western Edge Youth Arts, Barkly Arts and includes students of Mount Alexander secondary College. Let's hope there are many more.