



'[M](#)' by Craig Hepworth and Adele Stanhope

Produced by [Vertigo](#) , Performed at [Three Minute Theatre](#)

Reviewed by [Yvonne Cawley](#) January 2013

It is always a pleasure to return to Manchester's **Three Minute Theatre**, with its welcoming and intimate atmosphere – just like going home and getting comfy in your favourite armchair waiting for the main feature to start on telly. Only, a trip to 3MT is an experience that you can never achieve

about)

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M by Vertigo

is a real,

in your face

action and drama drawing you in and making you part of the whole event.

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The play '**M**' by **Craig Hepworth** and **Adele Stanhope**, billed as '*a homage to trashy thrillers of the 90s from Cruel Intentions to Basic Instincts plus tipping its hat to the old stage thrillers*' was a treat for sure. What I was expecting from the promotional blurb was a kind of slap stick, tongue in cheek and funny plot with a storyline basically made up from snippets of various old movies. What I actually witnessed was an extremely sleek and beautifully '

executed

' production with wonderfully worked plots (and oh yes we were treated to a whole host of these).

Everything about this play was exquisite from start to finish, although early on in the first act that some of the lines were delivered rather too quickly and could have benefitted from some more dramatic pause for effects. This is only a minor point, for as the play progressed, and the actors settled in and relaxed a little more, the lines were perfectly delivered with expert comic timing.

We had shocks, suspense, an abundance of humour and a whole cast of intriguing characters that morphed alongside the twisting plot, bringing it to a final crescendo. Basically an 'oh well I never saw that coming' ending which will also apply to those who have seen a previous production a few years ago, because Craig and Adele have painstakingly unpicked and re-ravelled the plot and ending!

