

Live Review

[THEATRE] Drive With Me

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Review by Anna-Bet Bester

The combined brainchild of director Liz Mills and theatre guru [Megan Furniss](#), *Drive with Me* is a complex one-woman piece that challenges the theatrical norm by combining multiple narrative threads to an intricate whole.

Approaching the concept of the iconic 'road trip' from various angles simultaneously, the show follows Marion Taylor (academic and seasoned National Arts Festival lecturer) as she makes her way to Grahamstown to deliver a keynote address on (you guessed it) the road trip and its metaphorical role in literature throughout the ages. But the show is far from a linear lecture – although it touches on important tomes such as Homer's *Odyssey*, Saavedra's *Don Quixote* and Steven King's *The Talisman*, these merely supply the academic framework for what essentially becomes a look at the inner journey of the protagonist.

The viewer accompanies Marion as she sets out on the literal journey to Grahamstown and then has to keep up as her slightly angsty description of her experiences on the road become interwoven with memories and nostalgic impressions that are as fleeting as the landscape that flits in a rear-view mirror.

The journey is extremely personal and captivating, but at times a little hard to follow. The focal point shifts without warning, which can be a little disorientating and might alienate the casual theatre viewer. That said, veteran audiences may enjoy it for the very same reason. The lack of conventional on-stage narrative keeps you on your toes as you try to tease out the various fictional threads that are haphazardly woven together.

In short – if you are in the mood for a play that will allow you to rest on your cognitive laurels and go with the flow, *Drive with Me* is not it. Only buy a ticket if you are willing to roll with the punches and keen for some explorative theatre that volleys about the notion of causality.

Drive with Me shows at the [Alexander Bar & Café](#) until the 16th of July 2014. Light meals may be ordered up until an hour before the show starts and the bar is open until 01:00.