

A New York comedy that pulls no punches when it comes to therapy and matters of the heart

Couples Counseling

Venue 13, Lochend Close



SOMETIMES it's important to scrutinise the detail when choosing a Fringe Production. *Couples Counseling* is a comedy - but it's no cosy sit-com with familiar characters and a predictable ending.

She (Anna Margaret Hollyman) and He (James B Kennedy) seek the services of Dr Bob (Jack Gilpin) in pursuit of a functional relationship. The result is a behavioural melt down with a reconciliation that convinces no-one that a happy ending is possible for this pair.

Described as "a comedy exploring therapy New York-style", the New York-style refers as much to the comedy as the therapy.

The playwright Carey Lovelace challenges the director, the cast, and the audience with her spiky, staccato script that acutely reveals how much dysfunction exists on the opposite side of the border from what is said.

The production offers Edinburgh a bite-size flavour of contemporary American theatre but my bet is *Couples Counseling* will enjoy a long and happy future somewhere Stateside.

Run ends 22 Aug

JIM FERGUSON