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The Ballad of Rodger & Grace

Cameron Woodhead and Reviewer

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Rating: 2.5 stars

Festival veteran Daniel Kitson has taken to narrative-based comedy, telling tales of optimistic eccentricity such as last year's *C-90*. This time, he teams up with musician Gavin Osborn to deliver two oddball love stories.

Charlie sits down next to an old man, Rodger, on a train. Rodger is soon regaling him with a wild tale of adventure - how he braved hatred, vegetarianism and shark-infested waters to win the heart of his true love, Grace.

Kitson's storytelling is weird and whimsical and satirises human foible in a way comparable to, say, Terry Pratchett. Osborn spices up the reading with quirky

suburban ballads, through which Charlie's own lovelorn story emerges.

The banter between the two performers is often funnier than the main event. But this gentle and good-natured show is more about warming the heart than tickling the funny bone. Those who like their comic pudding served with lashings of sentimental sauce will lap it up.



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