

# BWW Review: FESTIVAL FATALE was Femme-tastic! at Eternity Playhouse

by Brodie Paparella Nov. 2, 2016



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Chances for women to create, produce and perform their own stories is such an important opportunity that many hope soon becomes a prevalent element of the Australian theatre landscape. **Women in Theatre & Screen** is an organisation putting their money where their power is, on stages and screens advocating for gender parity in representation both in front of the audience and behind the scenes. This year WITS presented a diverse and dynamic program for Festival Fatale, which everyone should mark in their diaries next year, for it showed exactly where the emerging talent is coming from in writing, making, acting, events and administration. I was fortunate enough to attend three sensational experiences during the festival.



## Selkie

The Celtic folktale was incredibly fertile ground for feminist musing about lovers' betrayal and the power of the woman. A man finds a woman stranded on a beach, and discovers she is a selkie: a seal who can transform into a human and back again with the use of a magic skin, hers being lost in a storm. Sarah de Possesse is resonant and intricate with her stagecraft, giving a perfect impression of an otherworldly creature out of place on land. Jordan Gallaway brought much charm and brute to soften Sean's treachery, and played well to the humour in the text. Some more exposition in Finn O'Branagain's text, particularly at the final confrontation could have opened up the themes more, an opportunity missed. Tara J E Brown's animations working in with the live-action was richly delivered and showed great talent. Lighting and Sound by Daniel Barber and Danielle O'Keef respectively did much for sense of space and tension. A lyrical and powerful statement to the need for relationships to represent the acceptance of the realities of each soul, not be configured by greed or expectations. Gorgeous!