

FOR SUBSCRIBERS

Theatre review: 2:22 – A Ghost Story is a tense atmospheric dark comedy



(From far left) Sharda Harrison, Andy Tear, Dominique De Marco and Shane Mardjuki in 2:22 – A Ghost Story. PHOTO: SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

Charmaine Lim

UPDATED 9 HOURS AGO ▾

2:22 – A Ghost Story

Singapore Repertory Theatre

KC Arts Centre

Thursday, 7:30pm

Do not let the title fool you. 2:22 – A Ghost Story leans more towards a dark comedy with thriller elements than truly being a horror show.

Directed by Daniel Jenkins, the marvellously tense play shines in its ability to keep the audience on edge while telling a compelling story with layered character interactions. The well-timed jumpscare are a bonus.

From its opening scene, 2:22 – A Ghost Story builds compelling tension around these jumpscars that pepper the play. Jenny’s (Dominique De Marco) fear is palpable as she worries for her daughter Phoebe’s safety, only to be met with aloof dismissal from her husband, Sam (Shane Mardjuki).

“It’s a well-known fact, ghosts are scared of electricity. They’re like the Amish,” Sam says at one point.

The punchline breaks up the building tension and pokes fun at horror story tropes of ghostly activity disappearing under the light of day. It also reveals Jenny’s frustrations as Sam belittles her throughout the night for believing in the supernatural.

Sam and Jenny present a conflicting dynamic as she firmly believes the house is haunted, while Sam explains it all away with science. His persistent dismissal of Jenny’s opinions and air of superiority towards everyone around him are infuriating.

Further complicating the situation is Sam’s 20-year friendship with Lauren (Sharda Harrison), a college friend who clearly pines for him. Sam, it transpires, has never approved of any of the men Lauren dated, including Ben (Andy Tear), lending ambiguity to the question of whether he returns her feelings.

The banter between the couples captures the shifting nuances of their relationships. Harrison and De Marco shine as the leading ladies, keeping their portrayals realistic without degenerating into female caricatures.



Married couple Jenny (Dominique De Marco) and Sam (Shane Mardjuki) argue over the existence of the supernatural as he uses logic to dismiss her very real fears. PHOTO: SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

Sound design from Daniel Wong and lighting design by James Tan do wonders for the simple living room set, building tension with ease without resorting to easy shock tactics.

Long pauses, with sounds coming through a baby monitor only, build up to well-timed jumpscares, broken up by the the screams of foxes, which become a running joke.

Red projections on the living room wall convey the passage of time as clocks wind up and down.

Also notable is the play's dive into common arguments between believers and non-believers of the supernatural. The arguments are well written and suit each character's point of view, increasing in intensity as 2.22am draws closer.

One thing is for sure, this reviewer will be more wary of all things that go bump in the night.

BOOK IT/ 2:22 – A Ghost Story

Where: KC Arts Centre @ 20 Merbau Road

When: Until Sept 3, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 7.30pm; Sundays, 3 and 7.30pm

Admission: From \$50

Info: www.srt.com.sg/show/222-a-ghost-story