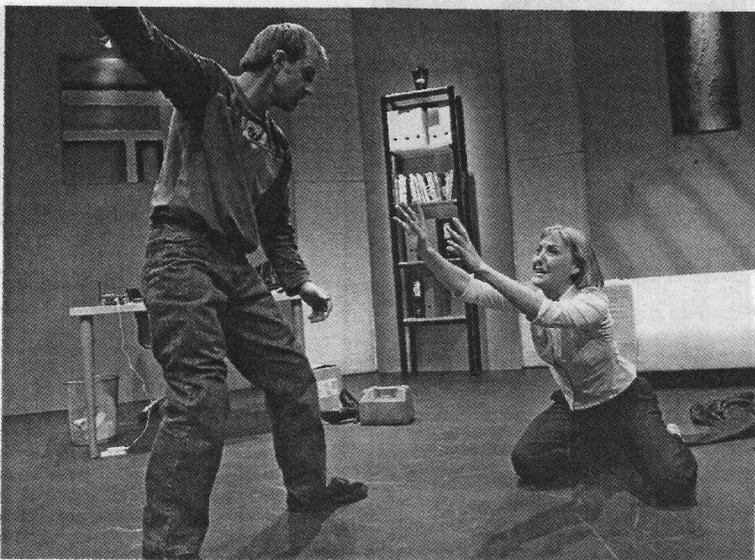


review



Kirsty Hillhouse and Steve Turner in a scene from *Talk About the Passion*, which is showing at the Rechabites Hall, Northbridge until June 5.

Passion play

Actors give their all in an intense play about pain and guilt

by louise fisher

YOUR child is murdered. His killer gets rich. What would you do? That is the question put to the audience as they watch the intense actions of Jason

Carroway (played by Steve Turner) in Perth Theatre Company's latest production *Talk About the Passion*.

Carroway is a man on the edge. He is dealing with the pain and guilt of having his only child murdered by a serial killer, however, he is also forced to endure further attention, suffering and scrutiny when his killer publishes an autobiography.

Carroway deals with this emotional pain by confronting the woman who published the killer's book.

What follows is an intense series of actions which leaves the audience glued to the edge of their seat as they watch what has been described as a "Twisted *Law & Order* meets *Alfred Hitchcock*".

Turner is outstanding in his role as a man in turmoil – his emotionally charged words keep the audience enthralled as they watch the story unfold.

Despite his violent and irrational actions towards the woman who made his son's killer famous, a sense of pity and understanding can be felt towards Carroway.

Kirsty Hillhouse plays the power-hungry, unmoved, arrogant publisher who tries to defend her actions.

Her radiating confidence soon disappears when

she realises the man confronting her has nothing to live for and blames both himself and her for the horrific death of his six-year-old son.

While the play is driven by its powerfully emotional plot, underpinning this is an examination of media exploiting pain for profit and society's willingness to allow modern media to victimise and re-victimise the original victims of violent crimes.

The words and actions of the two characters caught in the crisis compels the audience to question if they are guilty of creating a kind of world where people have a fascination with reading, watching and hearing about the details of horrific crimes and events.

This fast-paced story also explores how people feed on pain, fear and the loss of others.

The themes of *Talk About the Passion* do not dissolve the moment the lights come back on and the audience filters out through the exit.

Numerous conversations and debates can be heard through the corridors of Rechabites Hall in Northbridge as members of the audience question the outcome and discuss who was to blame.

Written by UK writer Graham Farrow and directed by Greg McNeill, this passionate and powerful thriller teaches us that there is not a definite line between good and evil and black and white – life is much more complicated.

Perth Theatre Company, sponsored by *Western Suburbs Weekly*, will stage *Talk About the Passion*, at the Rechabites Hall, Northbridge until Saturday, June 5.

Tickets from BOCS.