

## **East of Berlin**

### **Bakehouse Theatre**

#### **September 7 (to September 21)**

TAKEN as an infant from Berlin with his parents to Paraguay, a young man, Rudi, discovers in his teens that his father was a Nazi war criminal, and his mother complicit in their flight. Recoiling in disgust, he leaves them, returning - bizarrely - to Berlin, perhaps in an effort to assuage his guilt.

Much of East of Berlin is in the form of an extended monologue, and it must at once be said that recent graduate Adam Carter makes a mighty fist of a complex and deeply conflicted character.

Why go to the capital of the would-be thousand-year reich? With the financial support of those who supported his parents' flight, and that of thousands of others?

His moral curiosity is surely the key.

But is it an attempt to come to grips with the enormity of his father's sins? Or to assure himself that he is not his father's son? Or other, frightening, options.

A chance encounter with the daughter of an Auschwitz survivor, Sarah (Clare Mansfield), causes Rudi's pent emotions, graphically tested in a confrontation with his boyhood friend Hermann (Tom Cornwall), to bubble over when Hermann reappears, late in the day, and what remains of the facade comes tumbling down.

Director Peter Green draws strong performances from his cast in a lean production that easily holds its own.

Peter Burdon – The Advertiser