

PRE-SHOW IN-THE-KNOW

FAST FACTS

TITLE:

The Effect by Lucy Prebble, published in 2012.

DIRECTED BY:

Sarah Goodes

ABOUT THE PLAY:

When people fall in love we often talk about the 'chemistry' between them. But what is this 'chemistry' and what causes it? In *The Effect*, acclaimed British playwright Lucy Prebble incisively examines the world of drug-testing clinics and neuroscience. And, perhaps, true love.

Two young volunteers, Tristan and Connie, take part in a drug trial examining the effects of a new anti-depressant. However, as their doses become stronger, they start to fall in love. But is their newfound passion real? Or just another side effect?

Sarah Goodes directs a superb cast led by Angie Milliken as the trial's overseeing physician who must contend with the unruly feelings of her charges while debating the ethical implications of their work with her superior. It's soon clear that this pair have a complex past, and neither is objective about the thorny issues that entangle them.

Interweaving reason and passion, science and art, Prebble's funny, tender and provocative play is guaranteed to keep you debating long after the lights come up.

CHARACTERS

Tristan and Connie – participants in the drug trial.

Dr. Lorna James – a Psychiatrist conducting the drug trial.

Toby – a Psychiatrist monitoring the trial, previously in a relationship with Dr. James.

STYLE

Stylised Naturalism.

RUNNING TIME

2 hours and 30 minutes including interval.

ACTIVE AUDIENCE

THINK ABOUT:

- The cause of depression. Chemical imbalance of the brain or external creation?
- Is love a feeling or a construction of the mind?
- We see what we want to see and believe what we want to believe.
- What is our identity? Are we our feelings? Or are we just our bodies made up of cells and matter?

WATCH FOR:

- The Dramatic Techniques used to convey meaning including lighting, sound, reflections and TV screens.
- Mirroring of character relationships.
- Tension of Surprise.
- The Tension of Mystery fuelling Tension of Relationships as the play progresses.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS:

- Toby speaking about the 'Cinderella of medicine' and Dr. James speaking about depression.
- The assessment of the participants scans.
- Tristan's fit.
- The final moment of the play.