

Anna Carteret as the psychiatrist has perfected a voice of clinical enquiry but should — in the first half — vary the staccato intonation occasionally to let her off-duty self through. Jamie Glover's Adrian is buoyant; so is Mark Rayment's production.

Théâtre de Complicité's *The Visit* is revisiting. It was first performed at the Almeida two years ago and is back — at the Lyttelton — with a vengeance. Vengeance is the subject of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's play: billionaire Clara demands the

death of Alfred Schill who did her wrong in her youth. In return for his despatch she will give her ailing home town a billion pounds. Energy, wit and theatrical imagination — Complicité's hallmarks — are all in evidence. The mimed reactions of the villagers to the non-stop trains are tremendous; Clara (Kathryn Hunter), a jewelled toad of a woman, is unforgettable. But for all its accomplishment, *The Visit* seemed too long — Complicité's excesses need pitiless editing.

Kellaway on *The Visit*

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