

REVIEWS

Star turn

The House Among The Stars, at The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, until December 5.

THE lyrical and touching play *The House Among The Stars* may be set in a modest log cabin but tackles all the passions, loss and laughter of three generations.


In the 1990s, gay couple Mathieu, (a wonderfully uptight Nick Fletcher) and Jean Marc, (a solid performance from Richard Heffer) arrive at the home of Jean Marc's ancestors, a rustic log cabin in Duhamel, Quebec.

Mathieu's son Gabriel (a truly versatile Robert Lowe), triggers memories from the past generations as the action begins flowing between 1910, 1950 and the present day, with characters from each time sharing the stage.

Lowe plays the child in each generation – Sebastian, the son of brother and sister Victoire (Sarah Tansey) and Josaphat (Jeremy Crutchley) in 1910, then Marcel, son of monstrous matriach Albertine (an excellent Emma Gregory) in 1950.

Michel Tremblay's script pulls off a neat trick, presenting the scandalous subjects worming their way into the family tree – incest, cross-dressing and single parent drudgery – with a poetic beauty which transforms their soap opera truths into something infinite and tragic.

Jeremy Crutchley as



■ Nick Fletcher as Mathieu and Richard Heffer as Jean Marc.

Josaphat made compelling viewing, tapping into a rich vein of poignant lyricism in his storytelling and playing the heartbreak of a father losing his only child with breathtaking anguish.

And David Timson as the cross-dressing Edouard provided some well-timed light relief, camping up the comedy

with relish.

And all credit must go to director Dominic Hill for perfectly orchestrating the moves so characters from each generation glide past each other unawares, irresistibly repeating patterns from the past until their words begin to blur together.

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Tremblay Starr Chronicles



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