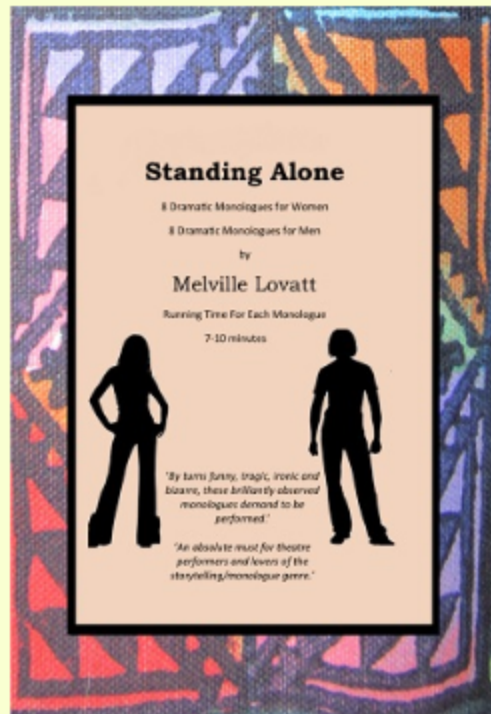


Sixtyplusurfers Book Review

Standing Alone by Melville Lovatt



Review By Simon Fine

Melville Lovatt's collection, *Standing Alone*, comprises sixteen monologues, eight for women and eight for men. Each piece has its own distinctive humour and pathos. The subject matter varies considerably but principally involve aspects of love, sex, blame, betrayal, loss and isolation, his characters are often bewildered or angry, struggling to come to terms with lives turned upside down by sudden events.

One of my favourites is *The Wall*, in which Vera, an attractive woman in her sixties, is reflecting on her relationship with her husband who died two years previously. She recalls the story of their lives together, how they met, fell in love and married, but the spark between them faded over time. Vera is perplexed by Jeff's sudden interest in his garden and, in particular, the trees. Finally, the tragic nature of Jeff's demise is revealed by Vera and is suitably shocking yet comical.

I relished reading each of Melville's monologues. What I particularly enjoyed was the sense of anticipation. I found myself eager to understand the story that the character was revealing, the unfolding relationship between the actor and the other people who were part of the tale but were not present in the room.

Ultimately the skill which was demonstrated time and again was the unexpected twist at the climax of each play. Sometimes hilarious, often with a tinge of sadness, occasionally disturbing, the monologues left me feeling emotional and surprised by the unpredictable turn of events.

It was very tempting to read them one after the other, but I found it much more satisfying to savour each one on its own, like an exclusive box of chocolates!



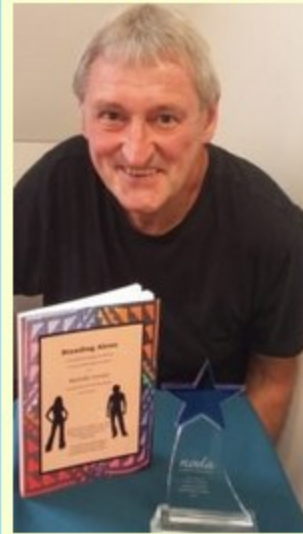
I so enjoyed reading each piece and it would be delightful to see such creative scripts performed live. In fact Melville's monologues have been performed in theatres in and around London. Two of them, Egg And Spoon and Making Adjustments won the 2018 National Operatic and Dramatic Association Showcase Competition.

Melville Lovatt is an award winning playwright/monologue writer whose plays have been performed widely in smaller theatres throughout London.



A number of Melville's plays have won awards: The Powers That Be won The Sussex Playwrights Club 1st Prize for best full-length play.

Small Mercies, a full-length play, won both a Jack Langford Memorial Award and a Derek Lomas Memorial Award. Two one-act plays The Grave and The Kiss were shortlisted for The Diane Raffle Award. He is currently President of Harrow Writers Circle.



Author, Melville Lovatt

Standing Alone by Melville Lovatt is published by Tsl Publications in paperback and can be purchased from the publisher (www.tslbooks.uk) at £10.

For more information about the book visit the website at www.tslbooks.uk