

ODD SHAPED BALLS

by Richard D Sheridan

presented by Plane Paper Theatre at the Old Red Lion Theatre, Angel London N1

The Old Red Lion is very good at submerging you into an environment as soon as you walk into its intimate auditorium. It is very true for this play which takes you into a rugby team's dressing room, a pub and a living room. And you know you're in very good hands when the lights come up on a fit young man who looks as if he's just come in from the field.

Matthew Marrs is totally believable as star rugby player James Hall who we begin to find is having some issues with his personal life. He is also convincing as other characters in his story – particularly as his coach but also, his girl friend, his father and a close friend and he hops from one to another with alacrity. His command, pace and attack are exemplary and help to make this extremely well-written play an enthralling watch.

It's a pity, however, that the play is lumbered with an unnecessary 'come on' title that threatens to take away from the important points that the author makes about sexuality in sport.



The production is well designed by Luke W. Robson and precisely directed by Andrew Tywman and is highly recommended.

Ted Craig

The play continues at the Old Red Lion Islington until 25th June

Box Office: 0844 412 4307