

## GET AWAY

20 June  
2007

Old Red Lion Theatre,

The Old Red Lion, St John Street, EC1

THE THEATRE is dark and smoky for the European premiere of Greg MacArthur's *Get Away*, as well as being stiflingly hot. The heat is not deliberate but it only adds to the stifling atmosphere of the play.

David (Quarie Marshall), a man seeking refuge from a mysterious urban sickness, meets drifting teenagers Henry and Garbo (Robert Carragher and Kira Lauren) and welcomes them to his temporary home, an isolated cabin in the woods.

As the play progresses their co-dependent relationship becomes too close for comfort, until finally the tension breaks, with dramatic results.

David's loss of control is conveyed with subtlety by Marshall, who makes us aware that the "epidemic" he is running away from is no more than a product of his own paranoia. Carragher and Lauren are convincing teenagers, combining childish enthusiasm with scorn and distrust of anything outside their world.

It is unfortunate we are told nothing about their pasts. Without background information it is difficult to understand their motivation as a couple.

MacArthur's script gives David a few too many opportunities for introspection and there were moments when I wanted to hurry Marshall along. For the most part, however, *Get Away* kept me involved, waiting for the tragic ending I knew was coming, but could not anticipate.

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- JOANNA CAIRD