



Reality check: The Waterman family, 'stars' of Butterfly

Real life takes wing

THEATRE Butterfly

When it comes to keeping it real, Quarantine Theatre Company is in a league of its own.

In 2003's *Eat, Eat*, refugees told autobiographical stories over a meal with the audience at Leicester Haymarket. Earlier this year in Manchester, the company explored what it means to be white, British and working class today, in the highly acclaimed *White Trash*, by getting seven white working class men from the city to swap real-life stories of unemployment, racism and prejudice around a pool table.

And now, with *Butterfly*, the company turns its attention to the dynamics of the family, in a devised piece 'starring', if starring is the right word, three generations

of Glasgow family the Watermans. Taking the form of a family party complete with cash bar, buffet, karaoke and dancing, and with the promise of the Watermans spilling some family secrets, as concepts go it's an intriguing attempt to uncover the extraordinary in the seemingly everyday and banal.

'Right from the start we made it clear to the family that one of the important things about how we work and the way the piece is performed is that they are very much being themselves,' says director Richard Gregory, who formed Quarantine in 1998 along with Renny O'Shea.

'There's no script or story as such. It's not a piece of fiction, it's not a play. Rather what we've done is create structures and patterns that allow the family to talk about themselves and show

how they relate to each other.' From the outside looking in, the most obvious comparison would seem to be with reality TV. Not so, according to Gregory.

'I can see why people might make that connection because that's the predominant cultural phenomenon in our media,' he says. 'But what we do is use people's real experiences as the starting point for making theatre and use all the tools that theatre has to offer, in terms of using metaphor and imagery and choreography. So for me there's just no comparison.'

Alan Chadwick

Tonight until Oct 16 (previewing tonight, no performance Sun to Tue), Tramway, Albert Drive, Glasgow, 8pm, £9, £5 concs, £6, £3 concs tonight. Tel. 0845 330 3501. www.tramway.org