

THEATRE

**Change: The Upcoming War With Iran** ★★★★★

The certainty of the title is chilling. It concerns a single question – or more precisely, the person who is to answer it.

And that person is Bob Ellis (Jack Klaff), war veteran, senior policy analyst and husband (just) of Marjory (Valerie Cutko). He's been given the task of advising the President whether the US should launch a pre-emptive war against Iran to divert potential economic disaster or whether the administration should stand back.

Given that many believe that some level of military aggression and financial instability is inevitable, it's a dilemma more subtle and complex than some would like to admit.

Written by Mark Soper and produced by Ines Wurth – the duo behind 2005 hit *I Miss Communism* – and directed by Gordon Carver of Fringe First-winning company *Spankin' Yanks*, *Change* is just as sophisticated and satisfying as you'd expect from such an acclaimed team.

Though a couple of allusions to the President's own intelligence raise a few snorts here, *Change* takes a subtle and complex approach to



*Seeing red: Change deals with tough political issues in a sensitive way*

these political issues. Klaff's balletic poise and dexterity is an honourable partner to Soper's lean, Aaron Sorkinesque script. Sexually charged, slick and largely free from pontificating, this is unapologetically adult theatre.

*Nadine McBay*

Until Aug 27, Assembly @ Hill Street Theatre (V41), 2pm.

[www.assemblyfestival.com](http://www.assemblyfestival.com)

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Impressive new political theatre piece written by Mark Soper and produced by Ines Wurth, the duo behind 2005 Fringe hit *I Miss Communism*

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