

Ornithology

based on the novel 'Cigarette Waltz' by Philip-Dimitri Galas
starring Ryan Anning
adapted and directed by Anne Meighan

Ornithology is exactly the kind of weird, compelling little oddity that the Gallery Mini-Series is intended for. An adaptation of a short story from Philip-Dimitri Galas' collection Cigarette Waltz, Ornithology is a journey into the dark heart of humanity via cocktails, cigarettes and the love of a good bird.

Ornithology takes to heart that classic piece of theatrical advice: show, don't tell. Throughout Ornithology you have the sense that there is more going on than you know, and at one point clever use of a hand prop made me wonder if there was a macabre twist being subtly foreshadowed.

Ornithology rises and falls on the strength of its star, and Ryan Anning does not disappoint. His performance is textured and funny with a turn towards real exposure and intimacy near the end underscores the fragile artifice of the life he is portraying and the theatrical experience in general.

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