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MATHEW KENNEALLY AND THE GREAT ESCAPE

PORTLAND HOTEL - TIM RICHARDS REVIEWER

Political comedy acts are often staged by people who seem to have little knowledge of politics. Not so Mathew Kenneally, a trained lawyer who has worked as a volunteer at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Kenneally spent 2010 in the to and fro of politics, has plenty to say about Gillard and Abbott, the fetishising of values such as mateship, and the whingeing of the so-called battlers. Affable and articulate, he raises laughs with observations on the parlous state of political debate, but also pokes fun at the do-gooders. The core of his act is a story about the time he and a colleague were accidentally locked inside the Maribyrnong detention centre. Sharply observed, entertaining examination of the tension between activism and daily life.