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by Peter Burdon

## " PARTY FOR OUR TIMES

Forty years on from "Don's Party", playwright David Williamson wrote "Don Parties On", with particular reference to the extraordinary experience of the 2010 federal election, when Gillard went up against Abbott. And won - well, sort of.

And so, with the news Donald Trump had just won in the US ringing in our ears, it was an eager audience who filled Holden Street to see what Red Phoenix could do with politics writ large.

As the eponymous Don, Wayne Anthony is well within his comfort zone and he leads a strong cast, apropos of which it's great to see a mainly middle-aged cast on stage. And what a good crop we have in Adelaide, with strong performances from Julie Quick, Adrian Barnes and Brian Godfrey.

"Don Parties On" isn't Williamson at his best, but it is a good imitation of "Don's Party", which is. The ribald wit and armchair wisdom is all there, the happy disdain for authority and innate loathing of politicians on any stripe.

The major defect in the piece is that neither the language nor the attitudes have moved on. The men are outrageously sexist. And there's a red herring subplot about Don's son Richard (Brant Eustice) which goes for nothing. But it's fun. "