

THEATRE: SEE IN ME

Finding purpose in raising a ruckus

IT is easy for any of us to feel overlooked. Which is perhaps why the story of Natalie Jean Wood affected this city so badly. She was the elderly woman found dead in her Surry Hills home in 2011. It was thought her body had lain there for eight years, unnoticed.

Beyond The Square's Alison Richardson was so moved she launched the Between The Cracks project, which includes the Ruckus Ensemble's theatre piece *See In Me*.

The Ruckus Ensemble is seven performers with Down syndrome, performing within the broad umbrella of Beyond The Square, which runs arts programs for people with a disability. But the Ruckus ensemble are professional performers and they're far from hidden, counting among their number TropFest 2009 best actor winner Gerard O'Dwyer.

"They do an awful lot in their own lives that put a lot of us who aren't doing as much to shame," Richardson observes.

"But they do feel at times they can be overlooked if they're not making a ruckus which is why we call ourselves the Ruckus ensemble."

The work uses movement, text and video to explore themes around isolation and will be accompanied by online video stories, available from tomorrow (beyondthesquare.org).

CHRIS HOOK

Riverside Theatres; tomorrow and Friday noon and 7pm, Saturday 7pm, \$15-\$30, 8839 3399, riversideparramatta.com.au



The Ruckus Ensemble.

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