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**MARATHON**

**Fresh Track Productions**

**Queen's Theatre**

Until March 19

Review by Nikki Gaertner

The Queen's Theatre provided a suitable and simplistic setting for Fresh Track's production of "Marathon", presenting the audience with the feel of a "road in the middle of nowhere" on which characters Steve (Alistair Scott-Young) and Mark (Roman Vaculik) run in training for the New York Marathon.

The set was simple – a road painted on the ground of the theatre, and so too was the lighting, just providing some colour changes in some key moments of the script. Sound effects were only used to enhance the remote and lonely feel of the road and were effective, but a little too loud in the final moments of the show, drowning out some of the more important lines.

"Marathon" explores the lives and friendship of Steve and Mark as they interact during their intense training run down the road.

Scott-Young does a good job of portraying Steve as the "stronger" (and more arrogant) of the two friends, always determined and refusing to give in to anything as he strives for his goal.

Vaculik also put in a wholehearted performance as the more laidback Mark, who'd rather just give up and stop running. This performance was particularly impressive as Vaculik was the understudy in the original show and came in to perform at the last minute due to an injury of the other lead cast member (Andrew Brackman).

The performers were particularly impressive due to their stamina – the show required them to run for the entire hour, as well as act (and speak clearly enough to be understood) at the same time.

"Marathon" will certainly leave audience members with something to think about as it twists through its storyline, but is probably best suited to older (15+) audiences due to language and content.