



Brought to you by the **EVENING POST**

# Crackerjack

[www.thisisbristol.co.uk/Tension-conflict-edge-seat-thriller/story-13490587-detail/story.html](http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/Tension-conflict-edge-seat-thriller/story-13490587-detail/story.html)

## Tension and conflict in this edge-of-seat thriller

**Date: 06/10/2011**

Crackerjack rating: 8/10

BRISTOL-BASED playwright Steve Lambert is best known for his dark, psychotic plays which have long lingered in the minds of his audiences.

But *The Darkroom* is not as obviously 'dark' or seductive as his previous work. Instead, this play is soaked in history and stalked by characters with multiple layers and therefore requires more maturity and patience from the audience.

Set in the gloomy aftermath of the Second World War, when people were trying desperately to put themselves and their broken society back together again, the play focuses on three very different individuals. Each character has their own darkness - secrets that hover over them from the war years.

Like a great thriller – we are kept glued to our seats, eyes blazing, wondering which of the triad holds the power, which one is going to blow their cover first, whose secret is going to be revealed.

The tension and quiet conflict between these characters is beautifully demonstrated. Charlotte Ellis as Faye, Gerard Cooke as James, and Duncan Bonner as William, were exceptional and performed with such tenderness and delicacy towards their fragile and troubled characters.

Sometimes we see ourselves and others most clearly in the darkness, or in this case, in *The Darkroom*.