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# Crackerjack

## 'FOUR TIMES 15 MINUTES: THE ALMA TAVERN'

**Date: 15/10/2008**

Crackerjack rating: 9 / 10.

Four plays, four themes. Four short, powerful plays from Theatre West's Writing in the Margins series.

*Bittern Edge*, directed by Pameli Benham, was a story of two birdwatcher 60-somethings edging towards romance. The script kept it local with humour for fleece wearers everywhere with just-right Jasmin Darke as Annette and John de Barham as Bob.

*Loose Connections* by Helen Bradbury was more edgy with Gerard Cooke as the unhinged Jason, pleading for his mum's love (Jasmin Darke on top form again) via his obsession with King Lear.

The last two plays were directed by Amanda Horlock. *Karaoke For One* by Jimmy Whiteaker gave accomplished Duncan Bonner the chance to tell lonely Dave's story of self-renewal through Elvis's music.

The final play was in two parts. *One More Trick* began jovially with Nadia Williams as the glamorous assistant to Martin Aukland's terrible magician. But Alex Boyt's script took us to darker margins as their show self-destructed.

**Harry Mottram**