

The HERALD

Saturday, August 21, 1999

Glasgow

Theatre

Refugees, Roman Eagle Lodge
Robert Thomson

FOR a one-woman show, Stephanie Satie certainly manages to fill her stage.

This is partly by perpetual motion and partly the plethora of characters she creates. In a Los Angeles classroom, adult immigrants learn English: the battered wife from Iran, the bitter oaf from Uzbekistan, the Armenian, the Russian, the Latvian. In Satie they have a teacher who will make them as proficient in wishing as speaking, show them how to live and share a little bit of herself. It is obvious that Satie is writing from direct experience given the rich detail and painful comedy she creates. Each character is full and distinct, with the energetic delivery being the only leveller. When Satie opens up her own personal Ellis Island, presenting herself as Jewish refugee, third generation or not, the self-portrait is the most poignant of all.

Repression is repression she says, political, social, sexual, or self.