

## The Real Chrisparkle

17 Minutes, Gilded Balloon Teviot.



New York's Barrow Group bring their Off-Broadway production to the Edinburgh Fringe; a riveting, intense and intelligent play about an unexpected knock-on effect of a terrible school shooting. The 17 Minutes in question is the unaccounted-for period between Deputy Andy Rubens informing his superiors that at least one shooter was on the loose, and the arrival of the SWAT team. What did he do in the interim? Of course, the prime responsibility for the tragedy was young Jeremiah Watson, a 15-year-

old student at the school. But is Andy equally to blame? He spends all his days cleaning his gun but it's never been used – perhaps this was the occasion on which it should have been. Scott Organ's play is deliberately written with sparse and minimalist conversations, telling its tough tale with clarity and a sense of inevitability. Larry Mitchell heads a six-strong cast with a telling and sorrowful portrayal of the law officer who let everyone down. There's strong support from the rest of the cast, including Brian Rojas as the splendidly suspicious Detective Morris and Deanna Lenhart as Andy's ultra-practical and forward-looking wife Samantha. A straightforward tale of cowardice? You decide.

