











































































The standout however is clearly Deborah Kennedy, perfectly cast to play the imperious matriarch Mrs Petkoff. Everything from a regal posture to a deep and refined inflection combines to create a great and terrifying performance. At times she need only enter the stage to receive howls of appreciation from the audience.

The three sets: Raina's bedroom, the back garden at the Petkoff home and the library at the Petkoff house are all elegant and subtle. Employing generous quantities of calming whites, pale blues and pale greens they are handsome and complimentary without becoming a distraction.

There is a degree of responsibility involved in taking on *Arms and the Man*. Shaw's enduring acclaim sets such a high bar, it would not be difficult to do it an injustice. But the Sydney Theatre Company rises to the task and has produced a stellar production of a true classic.

\*\*\*\*

Nathan Lentern is a writer and performer.