

A New Play Opens

The praise already recieved by Stetson for his play *Warm Wind In China* should recommend it to any self-respecting theatre-goer. However, being skeptical about such critical acclaim, I decided to read the play for myself. It is good. It should be even better on stage. There are moments in which the writing is quite admirable and the presentation of pain and emotional conflict is often effectively rendered. Of course, there are lapses in the skill at creating consistently poignant dramatic moments but these should be blurred by clever staging.

For me, it is incidental that this love story is about two homosexuals but we can't ignore that fact for too long when watching the play. The play is therefore quite daring even if it sometimes fails to tackle the ideological and political factors that surround the issue of AIDS and homosexuality. Perhaps, Stetson is convinced that a play about human relationships within its own limiting context is enough to generate the kind of thought that a more overtly political piece would. He may be right. See the play and find out for yourself.

The play is being staged by Theatre Simple, a new company in town and it is directed by Ilkay Silk from St. Thomas University. The cast is a young cast and therefore the actors should bring a freshness to the interpretation of this piece. The play opens this Saturday at 8:00 pm and will continue on the 14th through to the 19th. All performances will be at

the Edmund Casey Hall, St. Thomas University.

The play is being staged in collaboration with AIDS New Brunswick and Theatre St. Thomas.

KWAME DAWES

You Strike the Woman You Strike the Rock

What do children and chickens, Botha and Bombs have in common? They connect in the personal political equation made last Tuesday night at the Playhouse by the Vusisizwe Players in association with the Market Theatre Company. *You Strike the Woman, You Strike the Rock* links the lives of South African black women with political oppression under the white male oppressive regime the South African government calls Apartheid.

This is understanding with a difference. As the women on-stage make political sense of their lives, the audience is allowed to participate in the unfolding drama of those lives, from the uncannily realized bus trip to the exercise in power and powerlessness that structures the rape (one woman acts the part of rapist/overseer, her weapon, the wooden handle of a hoe.)

These events notwithstanding, the lives of the women are full of laughter. You hear it in the marketplace, where body language and facial expression are at least as important as dialogue. The stories are told with a salubricity that belies and foregrounds their grim content. If the vitality on stage is any indication of the energy unleashed when Apartheid strikes the actual woman, there's a place for optimism in the grim scenario being played out in South Africa today.

Lorna Drew

Lest We Forget ...



WORLD WAR ONE

1. 644,636 Canadians served.
2. 60,969 died and 138,166 wounded.
3. 175 Merchant Seamen died by enemy action.

WORLD WAR TWO

1. 1,086,343 male Canadians served.
2. 49,963 female Canadians served.
3. 42,444 died and 54,414 wounded.
4. There were approximately 1,500 prisoners of war in the Far East and Europe.
5. 1,146 Merchant Seamen died by enemy action.



KOREA

1. 29,647 Canadians took part in Korea, with 1,557 Casualties and 312 killed.

GENERAL

1. Canadians have been awarded 94 Victoria Crosses over the years.
2. The veteran population of Canada in 1986 was 650,497.

Layout - Kwame Dawes

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