

Angels, AIDS, and Academia drama

REVIEWED BY DEAN PRATT

The University of Vermont Theatre Department recently presented the 1993 Pulitzer Prize masterpiece "Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches" by Tony Kushner - a play that deals with AIDS, HIV, and homosexuality.

Set in the "darkest days of AIDS", this play shows the ignorance of AIDS ("only homosexuals and needle pushers get AIDS") in the early 80's.

Taking situations from a variety of different ways of life (a Mormon couple struggling with the husband's latent homosexuality, two gay lovers, and a hard, foul-mouth prominent business man, to name a few), Kushner tries to show

how everyone is affected by AIDS, not just the stereotypical individual.

This play is a great production for a college to present as the highest number of AIDS cases are occurring in the 18-25 year old age range. Hopefully, the audience, as well as the cast, was moved and changed some of their minds about this epidemic.

Kermit Brown, the only professional actor in the cast, started off very slow, but gradually got better as the play went on. I was expecting MUCH more from Brown, considering his theatrical background and training.

Morgan Foxworth and Greg Steen gave near profes-

sional performances as the gay lovers. Foxworth was able to add humor to his character without making it look overacted while Steen's emotional rollercoaster dealing with the stress accompanying his lover having AIDS was well established and executed.

Ashley Warlick as Harper Pitt, the nervous, pill-popping Mormon wife, executed her role with style and grace. All too many actors overact nervousness or being scared to the point of ridiculousness. Warlick shone brilliantly and will go far in theatre. The only problem with her performance was that she rushed some of her lines and didn't announce her words clearly, causing the audience to have a hard time understanding her part the first few rows.

The rest of the cast gave fine performances especially Ruth Wallman, a Lyric veteran, who played a number of roles ranging from a Jewish Rabbi to a concerned mother.

Director Peter Tkatch could have done a much better job interpreting the script, digging down to its roots and real meaning, but failed. The set was TOO simple and didn't add anything to the show.

The major annoyance throughout was the stage hands moving the props around under blue lights. It broke up the continuity of the show and added almost a half hour to the length of the show. Scenes should flow smoothly and quietly; neither occurred.

For a college production, it was done relatively well. For an UVM production, with ties to Vermont Stage Company, the resident professional theatre company, it lacked the finesse it could and should have had.

photo Mari-Beth Delucia



live!
live!
live!

Legendary lesbian folk singer Suede performed at a benefit for Vermont CARES and Outright VT at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Burlington on November 15th, 1997.



Samadhi Singers, under the direction of Rev. Christine Leslie, performed at VCLGR's "Our Town Meeting" in Rutland on November 8, 1997.

photo Mari-Beth Delucia

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7 SUNDAY
MOBY CONCERT, Juno Reactor, Guest DJs, \$8, All Ages, Club Toast

"Time Heals: Growing Older in a Gay Community," Gay/Bi Men's Discussion Group, 5 pm, Brattleboro Area AIDS Project meeting room, 67 Main St 4th Fl. FMI Joseph Kress (802) 254-3438

Eating with grace, holiday workshops for women. 1-5 pm, Burlington. \$45. FMI call Theresa Bacon, 985-4045.

Annual Tacky Christmas Party and Yankee Swap sponsored by the Women of the Woods. Williamstown, VT, FMI: 802-433-5990.

8 MONDAY
Brattleboro-area Gay/Bi Men's Potluck, 7 pm, at Louis Bazzano's, 144 Elliot St, Brattleboro. FMI Louis (802) 254-0067

GLITTER film night, "I've Heard The Mermaids Singing," 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Rhombus Gallery, College & Church Sts. in Burlington, 2nd floor. FMI call Steven Kopstein at 802-434-5653 or email: GLITTERvt@aol.com.

9 TUESDAY
Fabulous Thunderbirds at Club Metronome, Burlington, 7 pm. FMI 802-865-4563.

Take 6, a special Christmas Concert, at the Flynn Theatre in Burlington, 7:30 pm. \$23.50, \$18.50, \$12. FMI

call 802-863-5966.

9, 10, 11, 13: "So this you call ... 'A Christmas Carol'?" one-man comedy by Pickles Reese, 8 pm (Dec. 13: 3 pm), The Lost Nation Theatre, 128 Elm Street, Montpelier. \$9; \$7 senior; \$6 each for group of ten or more. FMI 802-229-0492.

10 WEDNESDAY
"Hesperus: A Crossover Christmas" a concert of holiday music from around the world. 8pm, UVM Recital Hall, \$15. 656-3085

Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise at Club Metronome, 9 pm, Burlington. FMI 802-865-4563.

Rainbow Business Association's Gala Holiday Party (Everyone Invited), Radisson Hotel, 6:30 P.M., Hors

deurves, Door Prize, \$10. RSVP Kathie: 879-4527

11 THURSDAY
UMass Amherst, Christian McEwen presents a lecture on "A Celebration of Tomboys," 12:30 pm in Campus Center 803. FMI call 413-545-4824.

11, 12, 14: The Sisters LeMay present "A Beaver Pond Christmas" at 9 pm (8pm on Sunday) at 135 Pearl. Admission is free for Thursday show, with a \$5 charge for the other two performances.

12 FRIDAY
"Positively Well: Living with HIV as a Chronic, Manageable, Survivable Disease," 9:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Capitol Plaza Conference

Center in Montpelier. Registration, including lunch, is \$25 for providers, \$10 for people with HIV (scholarships available). FMI, please call Marguerite at the Project, (802) 254-8263, the Vermont PWA Coalition, 1-800-698-8792, or Rachel Lurie at the VT Dept of Health AIDS Program, 1-800-244-7639.

13 SATURDAY
Amelia's Holiday Potluck at Marie's, 6 PM, 802-785-4606.

14 SUNDAY
Rainbow Cattle Company Toys for Tots benefit Christmas Show, 9 pm, Rte 5 Dummerston. FMI Bill 254-9830