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audience reviews

The Life of King Henry the Fifth, Falcon's Eye Theatre

Review: What an adventure! David Harris's unique vision for Henry V is full of life and excellently executed. It compels the audience to follow deep into the imagination as all Shakespeare ought to do, and often fails to do. This is by far some of the best Shakespeare I've seen in the entire Sacramento area and beyond. The smallish band of actors serves as one united voice and then equally strong individuals as they pull costumes, props (and apparently magic) out of the myriad trunks that make up the set. Brilliantly mixed with media and stylized lighting, the design as a whole does more to illustrate the trepid nature of the narrative and the lives of the characters than well done realistic scenery often does. That, coupled with a solid cast led into battle by the ever improving George Sanford, creates an experience not to be missed. Sanford's Henry wholly embodies the youth and passion which is often forced by older, more experienced actors. Other notable performances include John Reilly Saunders' faultless switch back and forth between the jovial Fluellen and the aging majesty of the French King.

Review: Well worth the drive from Sacramento to Oak Hills Church, Falcon's Eye Theatre's presentation of Shakespeare's Henry V completely engages from before the house lights go down. Intuitive set design allows for quick changes on stage, creating a sense of urgency. A decision to let several voices provide narration has the interesting effect of uniting the supporting cast as one voice, allowing an impressive performance by George Sanford as King Harry. See this one. See it.

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