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Pensacola, Lambda Players

Review: I had the unfortunate pleasure of seeing this play. While I was thrilled at the Lambda Players new theatre and efforts to produce an entertaing show , I was left wondering if the director knew what he was doing. The diologe reminded me of bad, really really bad, 1980's attempt at soft porn. The relavence to Tennessee Williams is waisted. I felt the repatitous voices of Mrs. Cauley to be shrill. If the Lambda Players expect the comunity to come to the theatre, then they have got to bring the theatre to themselves. I felt the self written bio's were over drawn. The verbage the writer/ director has chosen for the cast seems recited rather thn acted except for one cast member) The shining glory of this fiasco is the Lambda Players , for thier fortatude to present this in such a pretty wrapper. The costumes were rather , well, second hand. I couldn't have been more disappointed.

Review: In one word: amazing. The writing, the acting...all of it was absolutely wonderful. It was hilarious and heartbreaking all at the same time. The characters are believable, and you truly feel for each of them. The character of Marie is so brilliantly written that despite her simplistic thoughts and ideas (which change every 5 minutes), you can't help but love her to pieces and want to hug her and be her friend in order to experience her zest for life and love. I could go on and on, but really, you should see this play for yourself...anything I say will still not do it the justice it deserves. Seriously. Go buy a ticket and go see it. Right now. :)

Review: If you enjoy community theater as much as I do then you must see Pensacola it is a truly an amazing play. I thought the set was beautiful and very creative. And I really enjoyed the dream state, with the rose pedals, very artistic. And the actors were incredible. I was swept away and enthralled in their lives. Bethany Hidden (Marie) was miraculous, I truly felt for her. Joseph Ramos (Miguel) very cute and perfect for this part. I loved the accent, great performance. Susan Madden (Berniece) was hilarious, I will never forget her outfits and her witty humor, and she played the roll exceptionally well. Paula Campanella (Trudy) was superb as always. I had the privilege seeing her in Last Resort Trailer Park and The Shadow Box. She is magnificent. Ernesto Bustos (Steven) is the hard working guy trying to support a family. Ernesto really captured Steven's essence. Robyn Colburn (Charlotte) performance was outstanding, I really felt for Charlotte, Robyn played this part very well. My heart went out for her; Robyn really made this character come alive. When Charlotte delivered some sad news, well it was heart wrenching. I thought the tech crew did a great job with the lighting and set design. Great job everyone!!!

Review: A huge disappointment.

Review: Very funny! Great script, great directing, great acting -- a really enjoyable show.

Review: Another great performance by Lambda Players. I have seen a few plays at Lambda and have always been pleased and "Pensacola" did not disappoint. There were two actors who I've seen in past plays that are such a joy to watch perform. The first is Joseph Ramos. He has such strong presence whenever on stage (plus he's so pretty to look at--I can just stare at him all day!) I can truly tell he enjoys doing theater and has such passion in the roles he plays. Bethany Hidden-Cauley is such a delight to watch. She can be serious and be funny all at the same time. The rest of the cast completes the whole package and makes "Pensacola" a must-see.

Review: Bethany Hidden-Cauley appears frequently in Lambda Players productions. In Pensacola, she gives one of her best performances. Her character is Marie Baker who is trying to find her future. The other cast members give good performances although, except for Joseph Ramos as Miguel Castillo, the pizza delivery man, I haven't seen them in any other productions. Joseph Ramos is cast again as a handsome love interest who may inspire some to order more delivery pizza or to buy a pizzeria. The other cast members are deserving of kudos for their performances, especially Susan Madden as Berneice Cole and Ernesto Bustos as Steve Norwood. The cast's performances are limited by the stereotypical nature of the characters which, apparently written in emulation of Tennessee Williams, cannot, unlike Mr. Williams characters, be lifted out of the South to other locales. Ms. Madden's character, Berneice Cole, especially seems to be written and directed as a caricature of the unsanitary Southern town gossip. Blocking (actor's movements) is sometimes contrived or clumsy. Audience patience is sometimes required, as the director uses more time than needed to establish scene openings and transitions. Some work on remembering lines could be done. But, overall a good performance.

Review: I have always had a difficult time finding less-produced shows that deliver big. PENSACOLA delivered on so many different levels it was such a fresh breath of air. All six actors portrayed their characters with such detail and passion that you cannot help but feel for each of them and their respective challenges onstage. This is certainly not a special effects heavy, crazy lighting, or show-stopping production. This is fine acting, put on by fine actors, and in a beautiful space. If you have the chance to check Pensacola out, please do so. Bethany Hidden-Cauley radiates, Paula Campanella emits a gentle, but powerful performance, Robyn Coburn displays such emotion in her delivery, Susan Madden is a RIOT, Ernesto Bustos shows such intensity, and Joseph Ramos adds the heart to the show. The cast and crew should be commended. The Lambda Players have proved that quality theatre is right down the way.

Review: Great show. I laughed and cried. I went on a journey with this family through the good and ultimately the bad. A must see for Sacramento.

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