




productions

in the spotlight

behind the scenes

ticket services

theatre dining guide

about the league

employment opportunities

auditions

audience reviews

The Swan, B Street Theatre

Review: I have never attended a play with more foul language (no pun intended) and no redeeming features. WHY, why would anyone chose to produce this play? What a miserable evening with no escape. It was a constant barrage of swearing, adultery, sex, nudity, a trip to the gutter.
- Jean Frioux

Review: Pure garbage! Shame on the director and the actors. There are choices and there are choices! This was a BAD choice!

Review: If you have difficulty with nudity [several minutes of male nudity at the beginning of the play] don't go. If you just want to see a very good play with excellent performances, then this is your play. Very likely a play for a younger audience (though I am rapidly approaching 60) but if you just like plays, then don't miss this one.

Review: The Swan is a spectacular show. Although it does have its dark, absurdist moments, it is extremely well done. The performances by all of the actors are truly wonderful. It's not for the easily offended--it has nudity, swearing, and some sexual content, but none of it is gratuitous or out of place in the context of the show. It is really wonderful. I highly recommend it.

Review: Kudos to an outstanding cast and to director Erin Island for a very well done production. Dana Brooke was awesome in a very challenging role. It is certainly a strange play but an absorbing one that takes one from very funny situations to some dark ones. Bravo to Buck Busfield for bringing the production to Sacramento. B Street's 1, 2, & 3 series provides a wide range of entertainment from theatre for young people, to hilarious comedies, to well done dramas. I look foward to more great shows in the future.
- Allen Schmeltz, Stage Nine Theatre, Folsom

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Review: Jason Kuykendall did an amazing job as the Swan, and with the "transitions" he went through. He must have studied swans for hours. Kudos to B Street for doing a bold, daring, and challenging work.
- a fan of the B3 Series

Review: What a pleasant surprise! A first trip to B Street Theatre proves that Sacramento is ready and willing to stand up against the banal theatrical existences of so many other theatres in this town and many other towns like it across the country. B Street chose a difficult piece to be featured on its second stage which proved to be an ardent and all together fulfilling experience. The cast of three was well equipped to handle the absurdity of a swan becoming a human in the midst of a dysfunctional anti-romance. Jason Kuykendall was perfectly cast to take on the task of becoming this swan-man-creature not unlike Jeff Bridges in Starman slowly understanding the ways of human beings and their unpredictable hearts. But Kuykendall goes further. He steals the show with his incredible ability to speak this changing/growing heart with a savant-like sinew. Coupled with his flawless physique, it is not difficult to understand how one could become transfixed by him. A hilarious "honker", he leaves the audience wanting to hear more of his oddly profound swan-baby-talk. The swan takes to the character Dora who was pleasantly portrayed by Dana Brooke. Brooke was slightly exaggerated in her handling of Dora which made it difficult to accept her final metamorphosis at the end of the show, but she was convincing as a mixed up young woman forced to confront real love when it comes crashing through the window... or is embodied in the milkman. Rounding out the cast was Kurt Johnson who played Kevin, a very strong adulterous and abusive lover to Dora. Aptly written as a milkman, Johnson was able to keep the strange balance between greedy needs and greedy wants. Stumbling over a few lines, it was difficult to tell if he did this accidentally or added it as a character flaw. It worked either way. Direction was adequate with the unfortunate and constant interruption of canned "transition" music. Sound and lighting design were the weakest of the links, but no one area spoiled the production. Sacramento should be proud of B Street Theatre! Taking on new works and doing them well is what so many companies across the US are striving to do. I, for one, will continue to support its efforts.
- O. T.

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