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audience reviews

Lee Atwater Live On Stage! (aka Atwater Fixin' to Die), California Stage (Three Penny Playhouse)

Review: I saw this show opening night and was completely amazed. Eric Baldwin was incredible as Atwater and managed to keep the play driving forward, masquerading as many different characters along the way. I was truly impressed by his stellar performance and would like to see him take on more meaty parts like this one. It's wonderful to see a play produced about one of our political eras that, when you think about it, took place only a short time ago. It is such a relevant piece to our society, even today, as we struggle with our ever-changing public policies and political battling. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the show wasn't all one-sided, either. I assumed it would be all about bashing Atwater and his political views. However, it proved to be a very thorough examination, from all sides, of his life and the politics at the time. I actually felt bad for Atwater during parts of the play... Just a bit. The Three Penny Playhouse is the perfect venue for this intimate and powerful piece. Vada Russel's directing was flawless, the minimal set was perfect for the movement Baldwin does while juggling many characters, and the sound/lights were appropriate and well used. Enter this play with an open mind and you will probably learn something. I know I did.

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