

Naughty Plays at Xarc Festival

By Amy Doan
Staff Writer

Last weekend's debut of the second half of the Xarc Festival, Bill B, featured one of the naughtiest acts in recent Cal State Hayward theater memory.

Bill B opened with "The Actor's Nightmare," directed by Jason McInerney. Scott Blake played a confused actor frantically trying to bluff his way through plays and lines he knows nothing about. The best part of this act was Eric Moore's flamboyant portrayal of Henry Irving.

Following "The Actor's Nightmare" was "In the Beginning," directed by C. Lindsay Cross.

"In the Beginning" adds a twist to the biblical tale of Adam and Eve. Eve, played by Tristyn M. Vasquez, is torn between telling the public what she believes it wants to hear about her late husband Adam, or telling the truth about how dim witted and manipulative he really was.

Jeanette Penley was excellent as Rachel, the pushy documentary filmmaker. Dawn Monique Williams was perfectly cast as the mysterious Lillith Clay, whose strength and honesty in-

fluences the insecure and fragile Eve.

Without a doubt, "Decadence," directed by Roz Hilton, stole the show. Before the performance, audience members were warned of the play's offensive nature and sexual references.

Craig Marker and Lisa Dokken played Steve and Helen, a seazy, foul-mouthed couple who just happened to be among the ruling upper class by "virtue of strangulated vowel tones rather than any real achievement."

Dokken and Marker pranced around in scandalously revealing outfits, Dokken wearing more jewelry than actual clothing. Vulgar and obscene, the performance was sprinkled liberally with the F-word throughout.

"It was hard," said Dokken of the fact that her mother was in the audience, "but my mom respects me as an adult and realizes it's just acting. These characters are offensive, and that was the point."

Dokken realized that once she got on stage, she forgot entirely about her mother's presence.

On the notion that she may have attracted a fan base of drooling males, Dokken laughed and replied, "Most of the guys who come to the theater are gay anyway, so I didn't really have any creepy encounters."

However, she noted a picture of herself and Marker in sleazy costume was recently stolen from the theater bulletin board.

Dokken took on the role of Helen after "my roommate Roz was directing and asked me to be in it. It sounded interesting and challenging, and I was looking for a role I'd have to push myself for."

"It was weird because I wasn't even very aware of not having clothes on," she said of the embarrassingly sheer slip she wore over leopard print panties and garters. "It was more about how disgusting the characters were and not what they were actually wearing."

Hilton chose to direct the play after seeing it at the Edinburgh Festival last year.

"I thought it was amazing," she said. "It made people uncomfortable, and we liked to watch the audience cringe."

Calendar

Thursday, June 21

WST Preparation
Time: 4 - 5 p.m.
Location: LRC
Contact: 510/885-3674

Downtown Hayward Thursday Night Street Party
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Location: Hayward Chamber of Commerce/
Downtown Business Improvement Area Advisory Board
B Street and Foothill Boulevard
Food, fun, festivities for the whole family.

Local Agencies Committee
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Hayward Unified School District
Superintendent's Conference Room
24411 Amador Street, Hayward

Planning Commission
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Hayward City Hall, Council Chambers

NASA Summer Program for Kids (Ages 6 & up)
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Hayward Main Library
Contact: 510/881-7910

Friday, June 22

Kenneth C. Aitken Senior & Community Center Anniversary Party
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Redwood Road, Castro Valley
Contact: 510/881-6738

Jack's Bistro presents: "B.J. Papa Jazz Quartet"
Time: 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Location: Jack London Square, Oakland
Contact: 510/444-7171

Saturday, June 23

Ardenwood Historic Farm Fire Truck Day
Location: Fremont Ardenwood Farm
Contact: 510/796-0663

Sunday, June 24

The Hayward Municipal Band presents:
"Concerts In The Park"
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Memorial Park, Hayward (Behind the Plunge)
Admission: Free

Pet of the Week



Affectionate pup: O-Ball is a 5- to 6-month-old, male pit bull who needs a loving home. He's available for adoption at the Fremont Animal Shelter. Shelter hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1 to 7 p.m. 510-790-6643. Photo: Nicole Pestana

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