

Chronicle Theater Review



Players Deliver Tried And True Whodunnit At Monomoy Theatre

by Joan Tacke Aucoin

The Monomoy Players created murderous mayhem last week to Agatha Christie's well-crafted suspense thriller "And Then There Were None." The famed crime writer of an earlier time sets her characters up like ducks in a carnival shooting gallery and then she sends them off to an early demise, one by one. Whodunnit?

Director David Haugen (himself a veteran "Law and Order" actor) intensifies the cold-blooded homicides with subtle determination. Right up to the final suspense-filled pop-pop-pop surprise ending, the drama builds to a thrilling finale scene, from a two-hour course of inescapable happenings, dooming a very likable assortment of gentlefolk. Cyanide in the martini, an extra dose of sleeping narcotic, knife in the back, drowning under the moonlight, hanging in creepy lunacy or well-tuned vengeance? The Players are well suited to this perfectly choreographed tale of pitiless assassinations, all for your summer pleasures.

It's always fun for us year-rounders to enjoy the talents of Chatham's hometown finest. Bernard Cornwell (Sir Lawrence Wargrave) and Scott Hamilton (General MacKenzie) both add the more mature logical analysis to the crime scene investigations. "Let's pool our information about this unknown host," exclaims the esteemed Judge of the High Court, Sir Lawrence. General MacKenzie speaks of both wartime experiences and love for his wife, Ashley. Both actors are extraordinary in their utterly convincing performances. How proud we are to know them on and off the stage.

Alycia Kunkle is excellent as pretty secretary Vera Claythorne, leading

the Ohio University and University of Hartford student actors with optimistic buoyancy to both plot and ensemble compatriotism. Vera has been hired through an agency for her skills. The red-haired beauty looks young, feels young, and flirts with every handsome guest she encounters. Lisa Bol plays the critical counter force in her face with a pessimistic, Bible quoting, spinster portrayal of Emily Brent who gets a lot of knitting done on stage. Bol exudes frumpishness.

Emilio Tirri (the efficient butler Mr. Rogers), Alexis Semevolos (Mrs. Rogers, the cook), and Jason Long (handyman Fred Narracott) greet the guests with the unsettling news that hosts M/M Owens have been detained in London. When Rogers plays what he believes is dinner music, the plot thickens with the pre-recorded voice of Mr. Owens who indicts all 10 guests, who each at one time have been touched with knowledge of an unnatural death. Accomplices to murder or merely witnesses to death? Innocent or guilty?

Thomas Daniels is smooth and confident as Captain Philip Lombard. Jimmy Bain adds his wide-eyed smile to Anthony Marston, dashing in formal attire. Abraham Adams is very professional playing the recovered alcoholic, Dr. Armstrong. Andy Haftkowycz becomes the ex-police officer William Blore, who now owns a detective agency.

Sound designer Amanda Vecchiarelli is an unseen star of this show, using the sounds of nature's rolling seas, sing-song rhymes, and cutthroat horrors that truly enhances the ruinous demises in surround amplification. Andrew Sierszyn continues to deliver authenticity in set designs of Broadway quality in mini

scale. Heather Jessup's costumes are particularly pleasing for the three women characters who are adorned in vintage with the feminism of a bygone era.

Prisoners at the bar (drinks are free-flowing throughout the show) "feeling due for a summer holiday?" Or ready

for "murder and who can get away with it?" Audience members are forewarned. "The murderer has everything on his side, even the weather is cooperating with his plot!" True deliverance at the Monomoy Theater!

Foundation Plans Kayak Trip To Strong Island Next Friday

CHATHAM --- The Chatham Conservation Foundation will sponsor a kayak trip to Strong Island on Friday, July 19. The trip will be led by well-known kayak instructor Dick Hilmer, an American Canoe Association certified instructor and owner of Explore Cape Cod Tours, Inc.

The trip will start from Jackknife Harbor where there is adequate parking available. The meeting time is 8:30 a.m., beginning with a short instructional session, with push off at 9. The plan is to paddle to Strong Island where the Foundation will provide guides for a tour of the island.

Participants are encouraged to bring water and a small snack such as fruit or a granola bar. Life preservers must be worn by all participants. People with canoes are also invited. There is no charge for this trip, but registration with the Foundation is required. The telephone number for information and registration is 508-945-1980.

Harwich High Entrance Closed

HARWICH -- The Oak Street horseshoe-shaped entrance to Harwich High School will be closed until the end of July due to construction of the new regional high school. The public can access the building from the back parking lot across from Whitehouse Field.

Correction

Concert To Benefit Housing Walk

A story in the June 27 Chronicle incorrectly reported that the July 14 Cape Cod Symphony Dixie Land Jazz Group performance at the Chatham First United Methodist Church's Music for a Summer Night concert series would benefit the Chatham Ecumenical Council for the Homeless. The concert will actually benefit the Bob Murray Housing Walk, which will be held the week of July 15 across the Cape.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. Sunday at the Main Street church. There is no admission charge but donations are accepted.

Live Jazz All Summer

- 6:30 Tuesday, July 16th: Russ Wilcox Trio
- 6:30 Wednesdays All Summer: Wentzel Brothers Duo
- 6:30 Thursdays All Summer: Rick Costa Trio



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