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Peace In Our Time



Noel Coward's 1947 political drama, PEACE IN OUR TIME, has been double-cast by its production company, Antaeus. Cast #1, "Epps Cocoa," is printed separately. Cast #2 – again facetiously labeled – is the Stubbs Special (based on a nasty rum/faux-pineapple drink) is reviewed below. On Thursdays and Fridays, Antaeus will mix-and-match the two casts and have labeled them "Gordon's Gin." And Saturday and Sundays will alternate the separate casts. All three title-references are taken from the play, set in a wartime pub, where such drinks would be served. Cute.

The Stubbs cast was mostly up to the demands of the production, a gorgeously and expensively-mounted show. No matter which night you go, you will see the well-respected company shine at what it does best.

Aside from less-than-perfect British accents (so few American actors are trained in this particular demand of acting), the majority are up to the vocal tasks and everyone is up to the physical and emotional needs of the script. The Stubbs cast was as strong as Eppes', with Josh Clark and Eve Gordon as respectable publicans; Philip Proctor and Anna Matthias as the quiet parents whose son (Brian Tichnell) comes back to them alive; Bill Brochtrup especially good as the gay collaborator; Rebekah Tripp also a standout in the juicy role of Janet Braid, acerbic annotator of those who would collaborate with the Germans; and John Francis O'Brien as the on-the-run RAF escapee, Stevie, son of the hard-working

pub-owners. Another standout was the marvelous Rob Nagle as Richter the head Nazi.

No matter who you see in which role, this drama of a fallen Britain in WWII, is fantastic theatre, on a beautifully-realized set (by Tom Buderwitz), cleverly directed by Casey Stengl, from an adaptation by Barry Creyton.

Through December 11th, 2011 @ Antaeus at the Deaf West Theatre, 5112 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91601. Tickets: 818.506.1983 or www.Antaeus.org.

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