

JAN EWING reviews MORAL SUPPORT

Hi! Drama (Facebook)

February 25, 2019

Presented by Magnetite LLC

Play by William Considine

Directed by Félix Gardón

Stage manager: Brianna Mann-Hernandez

Costume designer: Janet Mervin

Lighting designer: Patrick Ashcroft

THE CAST

Mike: Richard Keyser

Mary: Cynthia Shaw

Beth: Nora McCarthy

Father/Older Mike: David A.P. Brown.

THE PLAY

Moral Support is a gentle memory play; nostalgic and autobiographical. William Considine has written a bittersweet tale about an estranged mother's cry for help and her son's lifelong struggle to believe her. It's a slice of life, well written and acted with skill; a personal cri de coeur that resonates long after the final curtain.

THE PERFORMANCE

As Mary (the mother) Cynthia Shaw was real and sympathetic. You want to believe her when Mary begs for attention, but doubts live forever and truth is subjective. Whatever she did, she pays for it in the end, and Ms. Shaw later reflects upon it with grace and understanding.

Richard Keyser, as Mike (the son), was problematic. He has great charm and had good moments, but I believe he may have been having line problems, which caused him to be unduly self-conscious, not completely comfortable in his part. This is not a fatal flaw. We learn from everything we do. With practice, Mr. Keyser should be able to deal with this problem and move on with success.

As Beth (the aunt) Nora McCarthy was not given a lot to do. She played the "good" mother in Mike's life, but her character was not developed as fully as Mary's. Whatever, her feelings for Mike were obviously genuine; touching at times as she warned him against his mother. Whether or not her warnings were justified was left an open question.

David A.P. Brown plays two roles. As Mike's father, he was a quintessential EVERYMAN; an ordinary guy with an on/off drinking problem. His feelings about his ex-wife were well-played and believable, and he seemed to genuinely regret having had to leave her, even as he refused to see her ever again. As Mike's older self, his conversation with Mary's spirit, during which they were both able to obtain closure on their subsequent journey, was moving and hopeful.

Moral Support is in development at the Medicine Show Theatre. It runs through March 3rd. HAPPY FACE MINUS

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

February 21, 22, 23, 28 @ 8:00pm / February 24 @ 4:00pm

March 1, 2 @ 8:00pm / March 3 @ 4:00pm

Medicine Show Theatre

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