

The Little Prince

An in-house review by Bill Benton

To me, allegories are just plain fun and allegorical theatre is icing on my pasteries.

Why? Allegorical happenings have several levels,

First, at least in theatre, every audience member draw their individual conclusions as to what they are witnessing and therefore the dynamics of player-audience reactions are sharpened. As a reviewer, this interaction has always been important to me as well as fascinating.

Second, and closely linked with the first, is the ability of the actors to "play with their audiences." This allows the players to have more freedom with the material being presented. This just adds to the fun.

Having said all this, The Little Prince, as interpreted by Director John Hill and company, gives flight to a fantasy worthy of the most sophisticated theatre goer's time and attention. (Let me insert here that this production is certainly worth more than about half a house that was present at the matinee my wife and I attended – sigh, such is live theatre in Fort Collins.)

The intimate salon theatre lends itself quite nicely to The Little Prince especially since it was bear stage style. I can imagine Mr. Hill could have done the show with some set pieces but letting the superb lighting and the circle playing spaces work for them enhanced my experience.

For a long time I've admired Director Hill's discipline with his actors. His attention to detail subtly adds to the entire scheme of things. Case-in-point: when the action involves the downed areoplane and the actors move about the outside of the ship, they duck under the struts of the wings. And, they never missed this action once, not one time! Granted, it is a small point, but looms large withing the context of the play

Also, the rose plants. The actors hand and arm movements denoting the vining of the plants, sheer directorial magic. In theatre, bodies moving in circles on the stage gives excellent stage pictures as moving in straight lines rob some of the fluidity of the presentation. Bravo actors and director. There are more incidents of this sort, but you get the point.

Accolades to the actors for their energy level, this lent to an afternoon of theatre excitement. Since this is an essemble piece of theatre, every actor has to have super timing and there can be no gaps or pauses in the action. Three cheers and a hallo for this aspect, what a pleasant afternoon of live theatre.

Bas Bleu you've done it again. Thoroughly professional theatre right here in the Choice City!