

Review: "Big Love"

January 31, 2014

By Jane Zussman

BIG LOVE at Peppermint Creek is a challenge to describe. It's my favorite kind of script: funny and weird and thought provoking. It's a tossed salad of gender roles and diverse opinions (with brief nudity and "adult situations") surreal, century-hopping around universal themes and dilemmas. Though it's based on the Ancient Greek play *The Suppliants* by Aeschylus, it addresses some very 21st-century issues of marriage equality and gender roles in a beautifully choreographed dance/battle.

Director Lynn Lammers explained at the talk-back that author Charles Mee encourages actors/directors to experiment and add to/subtract from his script which opens up creative possibilities. Her director's note says, "It's about gender roles, power, agency, and the malleability of the institution of marriage."

Representing 50 brides fleeing a forced marriage to their cousins in Greece, Megan Malusek, Amanda Harvey and Amy Winchell wash up in Italy looking for asylum, and bringing conflicting objections to their forced-marriage situation. Blake Bowen tries to moderate/compromise, Shannon Bowen and Chad William Baker are ready to party, and cousin/bridegrooms Keenan Kangas, Brennan Hathaway and Zach Neithercut meet divergent ends -- and Devin Faught and Judith Evans bring laughs, perspective and wisdom, with a Barbie collection and sorting tomatoes/sons...

The entire cast is solid but the script/ideas/direction are the stars of the show. Don't miss this one; it will give you plenty to talk about on the way home.

Continues through 2/8 - 8pm Fri/Sat and 2pm this Sunday 2/2 only - and next week 8pm Thur/Fri/Sat (no Sunday)

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