



The Shadow Box raises end of life questions

Description

D² presents its version of the Pulitzer and Tony award winning play

By Byron Toben



best play. It was written by theatre actor/director/writer
Emmy winning TV movie directed by Paul Newman.

What a pleasure to see it revived by the little local company

that churns out good stuff, **D² Productions**, here in association with **Mainline Theatre**. It has an abundance of both



gutsy and subtle passages so it is an actor's delight. Here they are ably directed by **Dale Hayes**, one of the founding members of D squared.

An interviewer (**Teneisha Collins**) chats with the residents of three cottages on the grounds of an institution for the terminally ill, each of whom have different approaches to their fate.

All of the experienced actors herein have extensive experience on stage, screen or TV, unusual for a small company which usually relies on recent grads.



Cottage

One hosts Joe (**Genti Bejko**), who is being visited for the first time by his wife, Maggie (**Susan Corbett**) who wants him back to die in their city apartment and young son Steven (**Anthony Schuller**) who has not been informed of the making it just a retreat to nature.

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Cottage Two hosts Brian (**Sofian Lahyanssa**), a talkative

writer of bad books (Christopher Plummer in the TV movie) being attended by Mark (**Max Mehran**), an unemployed drifter who had been given room and board by Brian and now helps because he 'oes' him but wishes for his soon demise. Enter Beverly (**Alexandra Valassis**) a flamboyant libertine lady from Brian's past and sparks ensue. (This role starred Newman's wife, Joanne Woodward in the TV film.)



Cottage Three contains a cantankerous wheel chair bound

old mother Felicity (**Helena Levitt**, who so impressed as Andrea Dworkin in *Aftermath*) – played by 1930s screen star Sylvia Sidney in the TV version – cared for by her spinster ugly daughter Agnes (**Nadine Cayer**) who has hidden from her the fact that her favoured beautiful daughter had died years ago.

However these three await their end, with patience, bemusement, hidden anguish or forgetfulness, none of them rage, as did Dylan Thomas “Rage, Rage Against the Dying Of The Light”.

In case you’re curious, Paul Newman passed on in 2008, Sylvia Sidney earlier in 1999. Joanne Woodward, Christopher Plummer and Michael Christopher are still with us, and long may they be.

The Shadow Box ended at the Mainline Theatre on April 30.

The next D² production **Late Company**, a Montreal premiere by Canadian **Jordan Tannahill**, will appear at the **Mainline** from **November 8 to 12, 2017.**

Images: courtesy of D² Productions

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Byron Toben is the immediate past-president of the Montreal Press Club



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