

Slow Thunder

By **Samantha Simmonds-Ronceros** - 10/25/2023



L to R — Ann Noble, Robert Yacko.

[[NoHo Arts District](#), CA] – A NoHo Arts [theatre review](#) of bAfA TheatreWorks’s “Slow Thunder,” written and directed by Suse Sternkopf, and running through November 12.

“Slow Thunder” is a wonderfully cerebral play. Its protagonist, Jewel, played beautifully by Ann Nobel, is at her home in the midwest. A farmhouse that once belonged to her family and that she has been able to restore to the way it was when she lived there as a girl. After a successful career in New York and a recent and devastating end to a love affair, she has moved back permanently. And this is where we find her, sitting on her porch, drinking coffee, waiting for an oncoming storm to sweep across the fields.

Of course, this is just the beginning of what unfolds in an artful and ever-deepening story of love and friendship, forgiveness, strength, self preservation and letting go.



L to R — Robert Yacko, Rob Nagle, Sue Gisser, Ann Noble.

eter, the man who broke her, shows up, unannounced, brooding, painfully charming, and he tries his best to selfishly rekindle what should probably never have even begun. He is played to perfection by Robert Yacko. However, it's the other relationships in Jewel's life that shine much more brightly and purposefully. Her closest friend Bird, is a wonderfully funny and warmly wise woman, played with a truly lovely and slightly frayed sparkle by Sue Gisser. Jewel's friend and potential lover Rob – strong, tall, and aching to defend her – helped her renovate the house and basically never left. Theirs is a deepening bond and it showcases this play's ability to remind us that the realest love is often not the most obvious. Our friends, the few we keep forever, are our soulmates in the end quite rightly.

The performances are really excellent. Believable, relatable, endearing and tightly wound. The actors seem to say more with looks and refrain than with words, although those words are wonderfully wrought and powerful. There's a storm always approaching, and you can feel the pressure mounting, the temperature dropping, and the electricity in the air.



L to R — Sue Gisser, Robert Yacko.

“Slow Thunder” is a very effective and extremely engaging play. The characters are memorable, meaningful and the kind



L to R — Rob Nagle, Robert Yacko.

The Cast

The cast will feature in alphabetical order Sue Isser, Rob Nagle, Ann Noble, and Robert Yacko.

Set design is by Allen Corben with T NYC, lighting design is by Miles Eрман, costume consultant is Molly Wrigs Chicago, soundscape and effects are by Janna . ope ven, and musical supervision is by Obelia awson. roduction stage manager is Miles Eрман and assistant stage manager is allory Corben. hotos and graphics are by ImageWorks. Slow Thunder is produced by Allen Corben for bAfA TheatreWorks.

Tickets:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bafatheatreworks1/1/21>

When:

unning through November 1

Where:

Theatre
112 ankershim lvd.
North Hollywood, CA 1 1