




BWW Reviews: THE LIAR Makes Its Intelligently Hysterical LA Premiere at the Antaeus Theater in NoHo

 **by Shari Barrett** October 18 <http://www.broadwayworld.com/los-angeles/article/BWW-Reviews-THE-LIAR-Makes-Its-Intelligently-Hysterical-LA-Premiere-at-the-Antaeus-Theater-in-NoHo-20131018-page2>

Also noteworthy is the intensely creative and totally hysterical handshake between friends Dorante and Alcippe when they reach an agreement. Hamilton and Delafield are a joy to watch as they deliver what appears to be a fraternity ritual taken to the extreme. Thanks for director Stangl for allowing us to witness the craziness twice during the show!

[Ann Noble](#) and [Kate Maher](#) present the two ladies as BFFs, keenly aware that men lie but such is life. Just accept them with the faults and move on. Nobel's Lucrese has the intelligence and heart while Maher's Clarice shares words but not her soul with any man. These women are like two sides of a coin, each needing the other to be a complete person. Their mistaken identity tribulations with the men reminded me of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" minus Puck's drug-infused purple flower.

The rapid fire delivery of the script - written entirely in rhyming couplets - kept the audience laughing throughout the show, resulting in a fast-paced urban romance as fresh as the day [Pierre Corneille](#) wrote it, brilliantly adapted for today and expertly delivered by the entire cast. Special kudos to costume designer Angela Balogh Calin, whose all-black, sexy and often sparkling attire for the entire cast (save the red sunshades worn by Geronte) allows the audience to focus on the characters and their words rather than colorful, gaudy costumes so often used in French farce. I must say that Philiste's leather riding crop certainly grabs your attention when in the hand of Sabine ([Karen Malina](#) White) in this oh-so-modern rendition!

Other tech credits go to scenic design by [Keith Mitchell](#); lighting design by François-Pierre Couture; sound design and original compositions by Peter Bayne; props design by [Adam Meyer](#); fight direction by [Bo Foxworth](#); and the production stage manager is Lara E. Nall. Kudos to Foxworth who managed to stage an entire fight sequence with the actors using nothing but their empty hands, pantomiming the entire fight - yet it seemed their fencing foils were present throughout.

Performances of THE LIAR take place Oct. 10 through Dec. 1 on Thursdays and Fridays @ 8 pm; Saturdays @ 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sundays @ 2 pm (no matinee performance on Saturday, Oct. 12, dark Thursday, Nov. 28); Tickets are \$30 on Thursdays and Fridays and \$34 on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Antaeus Company is located at 5112 Lankershim Blvd in North Hollywood, CA 91601. Parking is available for \$7 in the lot at 5125 Lankershim Blvd. (west side of the street), just south of Magnolia. The theater is air-conditioned and wheelchair accessible. For reservations and information, call 818-506-1983 or go to www.antaeus.org where you can also find a breakdown of which actors are playing the roles in any given performance.



Jeff [Thomas Gardner](#) (Philiste), [Joe Delafield](#) (Alcippe), [Karen Malina White](#) (Isabelle/Sabine), [Graham Hamilton](#) (Dorante), [Peter Van Norden](#) (Geronte), [Brian Slaten](#) (Cliton) - Photo by [Shari Barrett](#)

All other photos by [Geoffrey Wade](#)