

The Liar (Antaeus Theater)



For a rollicking good time, you must see “The Liar”, currently playing at the Antaeus Theater in NoHo. David Ives’ brilliant adaptation of Pierre Corneille’s 17th Century comedy is sure to please even the most jaded theatergoer. Ives’ dialogue, while spoken in verse, is witty and modern.

The incredibly talented cast, under the direction of Casey Stangl, glided through this maze of mistaken identity, romantic entanglements, and sword fights, with great agility and verve. The performances were universally good. If there were any missteps along the way, they were not obvious to this audience member.

Three cast members did shine a bit brighter than the rest: Brian Slaten portrayed Cliton, the ever truthful servant and conscience of the play; Graham Hamilton (the Ewan McGregor look-a-like) was the charismatic compulsive liar Dorante; and Joe Delafield was the impulsive hothead, Alcippe. As always, Antaeus has double-cast this production, so you may not see the same cast each time, but Antaeus has a reputation for great casting. I’m very tempted to go back and see the other cast.

This production delivers non-stop dialog and action. Crisp lighting design (François-Pierre Couture) and sound design (Peter Bayne) punctuate the action. Angela Balogh Calin’s dark goth/steampunk costuming added a dark, yet playful, edge to the overall look of the show. There is also one of the most memorable sword fight scenes I’ve ever seen.

The Liar will run through December 1, 2013. Tickets and Information: (818) 506-1983 or <http://www.antaeus.org/>.