

Theatre Spoken Here



Thursday, July 7, 2016

CHURCH & STATE ...in Los Feliz



Can any man, especially a Southerner, be elected to the U.S. Senate if 1) He does not believe there's a God and 2) He believes in strict gun control? Perhaps an even stronger question is 3) Can a man with deep and honest feelings ever survive in the political jungle?

In this world premiere staging of his unequivocally bold play, author Jason Odell Williams tackles this subject admirably. With a sensitive and bravura performance by lead actor Rob Nagle, these significant questions are asked and, in a contemporary way, fully answered.

Set backstage at an important rally shortly before election day, we are witness to the dynamic between a man fighting to save his soul; his manager battling to win the votes by keeping her client's instincts in check, and his indomitable wife seeing him as her hero who someday might bring them both to the White House.

Under Elina de Santos faultless direction, we are drawn into the lives and experience the conflicts between three impassioned people. Nagle demonstrates the man's ambiguity, while Tracie Lockwood is right on as his headstrong wife, and Annika Marks shows a professional who is able to avoid cynicism. Eddie Hong, in two small roles, brings focus to the power of the modern outside world.



Produced by Gary Grossman, with set by Jeff McLaughlin, lighting by Sohail E.

Najafi, sound by Christopher Moscatiello, video by Nicholas Santiago and costumes by Mylette Nora.

At Skylight Theatre, 1816 N. Vermont Ave., LA. Reservations: 213-761-7061 or online at <http://skylighttix.com>

Photo by Ed Krieger

Also reviewed in the August issue of NOT BORN YESTERDAY

Posted by THEATRE SPOKEN HERE by Morna Murphy Martell at 12:55 PM



THEATRE SPOKEN HERE by Morna Murphy Martell

I was the Broadway Critic for The Hollywood Reporter in the 1980s. Started in theater as an actor on Broadway; then playwright/director in London, Edinburgh and across the USA. Wrote and directed Off Off Broadway NY and then ran an originals-only theatre in Hollywood. Wrote musicals with my ASCAP composer-lyricist husband, Ralph Martell, produced in California and NY - one at Lincoln Center. For 10 years presented outdoor Shakespeare in Manhattan through the NY Dept of Cultural Affairs. HARRIET TUBMAN HERSELF, starring Christine Dixon, is in its 7th year touring the East Coast. Books CLASSICS 4 KIDS and SHAKESPEARE IN AN HOUR published by Shakespeare, Inc. AWARDS: National Endowment for the Arts for playwrighting; 5 grants for children's musicals and 8 NY/DCA for annual Shakespeare productions.