

From the Director

I love the term “garage theatre” - it has overtones of high art, yet carries a delicious streak of grunge. Tonight you will witness something incredible — the opening production of a grassroots project to create art for ourselves and the community, a project that has evolved rapidly into the experimental, blackbox-style garage theatre you see before you.

This being my debut both as a producer and as a director in any formal capacity, I naturally found that I had grossly underestimated both functions. What started as a back-of-the-napkin idea to do small, flexible, artistic, and original theatre in my house quickly snowballed into an involved operation, and I found myself knee-deep in script-searching, performance rights acquisition, equipment purchasing, construction and installation, artistic direction, and people coordination.

But the content of it has captured me. The genre of Short Play is theatre distilled down to its very essence. The “artistic density” must necessarily be quite high. These plays represent slices of time that give us a short glimpse into characters and places — a glimpse that ultimately leaves us lost in thought and craving more.

The cast and production team have risked a significant investment of their time on this crazy idea; I am deeply indebted to their enthusiasm and effort, and I hope you all will agree after tonight that the challenging road to arrive at this seminal evening was worthwhile. Thank you all for your support.

Nalin A. Ratnayake,
Producer and Artistic Director

This project’s goal is to produce artistic, experimental, and original short plays in an intimate setting for little or no cost to the audience.

We hope it will become a proving ground for local playwrights to test out scenes and characters in a small setting, and develop their skills as writers. Actors and tech crew alike can explore small-cast, experimental works not well-suited for larger theater houses through our flexible style of production.

Find upcoming shows, post your reviews, get audition notices, and engage in general performing arts discussion at:
www.avthespians.org/forums

THE ANTELOPE VALLEY THESPIANS
PRESENT

Voices by Hortense Flexner



Saturday, June 20th, 2009

and

Sunday, June 21st, 2009

7:00pm

**Almond Valley Playhouse
6521 Almond Valley Way,
Lancaster**

www.avthespians.org/productions

A Bit of History

“Voices” is a short play that draws parallels between the horrors of WWI France (and by extension, any war) and the massive bloodshed of the Hundred Years War between England and France in the 15th Century CE.

Jeanne d’Arc (Joan of Arc) was a peasant girl who rose to lead the armies of France against a massive, and initially almost unstoppable, English invasion, after hearing the voice of God in visions instructing her to save her country.

Her heroic efforts played a significant role in the eventual defeat of the English, and it may be said that she was directly responsible for the coronation of Charles VII of France at Reims and the restoration of the French monarchy. Yet the new King betrayed Jeanne, leaving her to be tortured and burned as a heretic by the English after her capture.

Jeanne was beatified and canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church. She is a national heroine in common French lore, aggrandized in paintings and legend as a warlike figure and the savior of France.

Your cooperation please...

Due to the small size of our theater, late arrivals and other distractions will be particularly disruptive to the performers and your fellow audience members.

Please arrive before the performance start time, silence all electronic devices, and refrain from flash photography during the show.

Audio and/or video recording is not permitted.

Tonight’s Show

Voices

By Hortense Flexner

YVONNE — Sarah Bialobroda

THE OTHER — Anna Delrosario

Yvonne, a young peasant girl, fears for her small town of Domremy, France, ravaged by the shelling of World War I. She stops to pray at the ancient church sacred to Jeanne D’Arc, a ruined basilica in the woods near her village.

This sacred ground, believed for centuries to be infused with the spirit of Jeanne d’Arc, is known for being the place where Jeanne first heard the voices from Heaven.

Yvonne speaks, and a Voice responds... we are offered a glimpse of her county’s past, and learn of the power of the spirit to overcome life’s worst horrors.

Production Team

Producer & Artistic Director

Nalin A. Ratnayake

Production Stage Manager — Courtney Marietta

Technical Director — Jeremy Gruca

Scenic Design — Lucas Nemeth

Lighting Design — Jessica Katzman

Sound Design — Juliana Katzman

Costume & Properties — Anna Delrosario

Thank You!

Special thanks are due this evening to the Delrosario Family, for the loan of about half of the folding chairs.

In the future, this space in the playbill will be reserved for listing the supporters, patrons, and local businesses that have helped us out.

Would you like to help sponsor our next production? Even as a small operation, equipment costs, technical materials expenses, and performance royalties must be paid just as for any other community theatre group.

Please help keep this project going with a small donation.

See the separate flyer for more information on our next production, *Crime and Punishment*, and for information on how you can help!

Attention Local Playwrights!

AVT wants to produce your play! Part of our mission is to be a testbed theatre for local playwrights to see their scenes and characters in action. Our small venue, flexible production team, and friendly audiences will get you the experience and feedback you need to polish off the final touches on your manuscript.

*Got a script for us?
productions@avthespians.org*