



Pioneers have experience, lack consistent scorer



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Review: Curtainbox offers a riveting 'Hedda Gabler'

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 By Julie Jensen, celtic@qconline.com

The hateful heroine of Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler" made the play distasteful when it was first performed in 1891, but soon she began to fascinate audiences.

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The Curtainbox Theatre's production at Davenport's Village Theater is a riveting show that stars Kimberly Furness in the title role. Her facial and body expressions are subtle but strong.

Mike Schulz is George Tesman, her husband, good-natured and exuberant, and Patrick Dulaney is the bombastic Judge Brack, who tries to get close to Hedda.

Adam Clough is Eilert Lovborg, a brilliant author and probable alcoholic who loses the manuscript of his next book after Hedda encourages him to drink. Hedda views Lovborg as competition to her husband.

Erin Churchill is Mrs. Elvsted, who has helped Eilert with the manuscript and brings a great deal of emotion to the role.

Corinne Johnson is Aunt Julie, who raised George Tesman and is quite sure that Hedda is pregnant.

Denise Yoder is Berta, the maid, and she makes her dislike of Hedda quite obvious.

The play starts as the Tesmans have just returned from a six-month honeymoon, which bored Hedda -- and she continues to be bored, playing with her pistols.

George Tesman tells his wife that he has found the Lovborg manuscript, but he is called away because his aunt is dying. Lovborg comes in and says he lost the manuscript and wants to kill himself. Hedda doesn't tell him she has it; she gives him one of her pistols and tells him to have a beautiful death.

Then Hedda burns the manuscript. But Tesman and Mrs. Elvsted find notes for the manuscript and work on reconstructing it.

The climax of the show leaves audiences with plenty to think about when it comes to Hedda's character and motivations.

David Bonde directed this show, moving it through its four acts at a smooth pace.

The beautiful set designed by Kris Eitheim has a chaise lounge, a fireplace box, and slats on the walls that allow you to see the shadow of the dramatic last scene. Gregg Hiatt designed the costumes and Corinne Johnson coordinated them. They are handsome and typical of the period.

"Hedda Gabler" will be performed again Nov. 18-21, 23-24, 26-28 and 30. All performances are 7:30 p.m. except for Sundays, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for 60 and older, \$12 for students), available at the door.

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Photo: Submitted
 Kim Furness and Mike Schulz star in the Curtainbox Theatre production of Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler.'

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