Subject: A Great Show!
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August 2009

Passing the Torch Through the Arts

Our Mission:

Passing the Torch Through the Arts is a culturally diverse, community based theater company, dedicated to education and social change. Our program is designed to serve at-risk youth in an innovative and completely interactive theater project.

We believe the Hudson Valley is a treasure trove of talent:
writers, actors, directors and we would love to help them perfect their craft or just keep their chops, close to home and without the expense of NYC.

We are looking forward to offering a venue and peer critique of new plays and plays in progress from all levels, all ages, all unique voices of Hudson Valley playwrights, all in a nurturing environment.

Also, we encourage the general public to come and view the works to enjoy the

It was a Great Show!

With a sold out performance and standing ovation on Friday August14th, 2009 our first production in Beacon of "To Kill a Mockingbird" adapted from the original novel By Harper Lee (adaptation by Michael Monasterial) and "Hear the Music--The Harry Belafonte Story" by Michael Monasterial was a huge hit!

Check out the Review Below!

Times Herald Record Review by Cindy Topps

"Passing The Torch Through The Arts is producing two very thought provoking plays at the historic Howland Center in Beacon. Both one act dramas are written by Michael Monasterial and both are directed by Brian Petti.

The first play is an adaptation of Harper Lee's novel "To Kill A Mockingbird." Four adept performers handled the many roles called for in this drama. The tale is told in flashback by Scout (Christa Trinler) as she gives an eyewitness account of her father's legal defense of a black man wrongfully accused of attacking a white woman in 1935 Alabama. Trinler is genuine throughout but sometimes her Southern accent falters.

Michael Monasterial has the intriguing task of playing both white and black characters as well the two main characters at the trial: Tom Robinson the accused and Bob Ewell the father of the accuser. This is a fascinating feat to watch. Johanna Tacadena has the daunting task of playing both male and female characters, which she does with great

creative process. So come join us at the beginning. Dancing with a hat and cane is optional. Being entertained is not!

PRESS!

Check out our latest article in the Poughkeepsie Journal:

Program Fosters Education Through Theatre

Passing the Torch Through the Arts has been featured in: Poughkeepsie Journal, Buzzine Magazine, Hudson Valley Press Online, Times Herald Record, Kingston Freeman, Roll Magazine and on Hudson Valley Public Affairs Radio!

Now we have added WAMC/ Northeast Public Radio to our growing list!

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skill. Ron Morehead portrays Atticus Scout's father and Tom's lawyer with proficiency and cordiality.

Monasterial choice of using merely four performers suited the piece well except at times (i.e. the trial scene) where one more male could have lessened the musical chairs effect of actors changing characters in the same scene. Monasterial cleverly maintains the story and the dramatic message within an hour time frame.

The other piece entitled "Hear The Music - The Story of Harry Belafonte" could be called a musical. All the music which is accompanied on guitar by Terry Weaver and sung by the three performers Mary Ellen Petti, Johanna Tacadena and Michael Monasterial are well known hits by Mr. Belafonte.

The piece is an homage to Mr.Belefonte's many "battles" during his career beginning as Gang Member, Soldier, Singer, Actor, Civil Rights Activist and Humanitarian. Once again Monasterial uses a small cast (Tacadena and Petti) to portray a myriad of characters (most of them well known). He portrays the man himself. Tacadena and Petti do a grand job of accents and impersonations (some dead on). Monasterial is no slouch himself in both mannerisms and singing.

Director Petti has brought a top notch cast of performers together for both pieces penned by a talented Monasterial. The Howland Center poses some challenges for live theater but these performers could easily display their talents in a barn and still please."

Also be sure to check out our:

Summer Playwrights Lab!

With open casting for Actors
and open calls for Playwrights

Every Sunday through August at the:

Howland Cultural Center
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The reading is FREE to the public, although donations are accepted!

See What's Next as we Feature Selected Scenes!

Sunday, August 23, 2009
"The Weir"

by Conor McPhereson
with Ron Morehead, Brett Owen, Mery Ellen Nelligar and Brian Petti

Sunday, August 30, 2009
"April in Leningrad"
by Nina Shengold
with Mourka and Brett Owen

Feel free to visit us at passingthetorchthroughthearts.com!

Sincerely,

Candi Sterling
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