

[Back to Robert Machray's Reviews](#)

Top Girls – Antaeus



When I first saw *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill I didn't understand it and ended up disliking it intensely. Antaeus is putting on the play as part of their new season and it's incredibly wonderful, and I mean both casts. Part of this is due to the expert direction by Cameron Watson who has treated the play like a piece of music, orchestrating the complex scenes, and in particular He has chosen a remarkable cast, in fact two casts, something that is always done for Antaeus' productions. The "Ballbreaker" cast includes Rebecca Mozo, Karianne Flaathen, Kimiko Gelman, Abigail Marks, Elizabeth Swain, Shannon Lee Clair, and Julie Davis.

The other cast (the Highflyers) consists of Sally Hughes, Karianne Flaathen (her alternate was Rebekah Trip who is doing a marvelous job a Josie in *A Moon for the Misbegotten* at the Rubicon), Kimiko Gilman (whose double is Linda Park who is off shooting a movie for a few weeks), Etta Devine, Rhonda Aldrich, Jeanne Syquia, and Alexandra Goodman.

There is some remarkable work being done by all these ladies, some for the first time at Antaeus. With the skill of these women and the competence of the direction, I finally could understand what playwright Churchill is getting at. The play is a remarkable study of the place of women in society of the 1980s; Glass ceilings, age discrimination, conflict between generations, the necessity of dealing with unhinged relationships with ones children, ambition, roles that women play etc. I urge everyone to see this play, either cast. Brava ladies for a job well done. You enlightened this old reviewer and showed him that sometimes I just miss the point.