The Liar

8:00 p.m. every Thu., Fri., Sat. until December 1 @ The Antaeus Company and Antaeus Academy
2:00 p.m. every Sat., Sun. until December 1

DESCRIPTION

The anglophone update of Pierre Corneille's 17th-century comedy of manners Le Menteur is a spun confection of verbal sleight of hand, romantic trickery and dramatic derring-do. The real star is David Ives' script, a "translaptation" from the French into pentameter couplets, brought to vivid life by Antaeus' cast (there are two alternating casts, per the company's custom) under Casey Stangl's direction. Compulsive untruth teller Dorante (Graham Hamilton in the performance reviewed) rolls into Paris and quickly ensnares Cliton (Brian Slaten), a guileless manservant, before falling swooning head over insouciant heels in love with Clarice (Kate Maher), whom he mistakes for her tart-tongued friend Lucrece (Ann Noble). Unbeknownst to him, Clarice also is secretly betrothed to Dorante's friend Alcippe (Joe Delafield), and dizzying dramatic contortions ensue. The exuberant cast led by Hamilton pirouettes through the verse, teasing out the comic potential from each witticism and double entendre, though they're somewhat hampered by the length -- come the second act, we've got a hangover brewing from the sugar rush. Angela Balogh Calin's costumes seem inspired by a goth prom: though aesthetically intriguing, their connection to the play's themes isn't obvious. Pine makes an amusingly complicit dupe, while Noble's appealing spunk parries with Hamilton's bravado. Antaeus Company, 5112 Lankershim Blvd., N. Hlywd; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 2 p.m.; through Dec. 1. (818) 506-5436, antaeus.org.

— By Jenny Lower

OTHER UPCOMING THEATER EVENTS

REDCAT's Tenth Anniversary Season
@ REDCAT: Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater
Wed, Oct 23, 10:00 am

Bob Baker's Halloween Hoop-De-Do
@ Bob Baker Marionette Theater
Wed, Oct 23, 10:30 am

OTHER EVENTS ON OCTOBER 24TH

Forgetting the Girl
Mark Dresser, Joshua White, Ben Schachter, Michael Dessen, Kjell Noredeson
2:00 pm

The Singles
2:00 pm

Izakaya Fu-ga
7:00 am

Makoto Gomyo, Kunimi Terada

Kula Revolving Sushi Bar
4:00 am

SEE MORE EVENTS ON OCTOBER 24TH