

Review Plays.com

Tonight at 8:30

The Deaf West Theatre

The Antaeus Company was created in 1991 as a project of the Center Theatre Group. It was co-founded by award-winning actor, playwright, drama scholar and director, Dakin Matthews, who served as its Artistic Director for twelve years. His co-founder was actress, writer, director Lillian Groag. Four years ago Matthews retired as Artistic Director turning over that position to John Apicella and Jeanie Hackett. Their mission is ".....to keep classical theater vibrantly alive in ourselves and in our community."

**Reviewed by
Carol Kaufman Segal**

In their new interim home at the Deaf West Theatre in North Hollywood, the company is presenting the complete nine one-act plays entitled *Tonight At Eight-Thirty* by Noel Coward, plus a tenth play never produced before on the West Coast. Four one-acts will be featured in two evenings; the two remaining ones to be presented separately during the run. Two separate casts alternate in the roles led by six different directors.



Nike Doukas and JD Cullum

To date, I have seen Part I, of the four plays, *Star Chamber* directed by William Ludel, *We Were Dancing* directed by Michael Murray, *The Astonished Heart* directed by Stephanie Shroyer and *Hands Across the Sea* also directed by Michael Murray. All of these plays were performed with perfect British accents. The plays are witty, very humorous, musical and exceptionally entertaining, just what to expect from Noel Coward. Costume design is by A. Jeffrey Schoenberg, choreography by Kay Cole, musical direction by Matt Goldsby. This is theater at its best! Part II will open Nov. 10, 2007.

The ensemble includes Rhonda Aldrich, John Apicella, Gigi Bermingham, Bill Brochtrup, Michael Reilly Burke, Anne Gee Byrd, Emily Chase, Josh Clark, JD Cullum, Ramon DeOcampo, Nike Doukas, Emily Eiden, Angela Goethals, Jeanie Hackett, Shannon Holt, Adam Meyer, Lynn Milgrim, Angela Paton, Melinda Peterson, Christina Pickles, Ray Porter, Kirsten Potter, Lawrence Pressman, Phillip Proctor, John Prosky, Raphael Sbarge, Ned Schmidtke, Devon Sorvari, Susan Sullivan, Kitty Swink, Geoffrey Wade, Laura Wernette, Amelia White, Bernard White, Mirron Willis and Alicia Wollerton. Quite a huge group of absolutely phenomenal actors! And the very fine directors include Brendon Fox, Robert Goldsby, William Ludel, Michael Murray, Stefan Novinski and Stephanie Shroyer.

The Deaf West Theatre is located at 5112 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood. For a schedule of all performances and/or tickets, go online at www.antaeus.org. Tickets are also available through www.Theatermania.com or by calling (866) 811-4111. All parts will run through December 23, 2007.

Comments? Write to us at: letters@reviewplays.com



The *Star Chamber* Cast

Photos: Michele K. Short