

The Crucible

BY: [RON IRWIN](#)



Alexandra Goodman, Bo Foxworth

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The always exciting [Antaeus](#) Theatre Ensemble has once again raised the bar with its breathtaking and mega powerful presentation of “The Crucible” from playwright [Arthur Miller](#). Inspired by the McCarthyism of the 1950’s Miller takes us back to a similar time in history when passion trumped reason with the Salem witch trials. This unforgettable play is co-directed by Armin Shimerman and Geoffrey Wade and partner cast (which means two different full casts) and is currently on stage at the Antaeus Theatre in North Hollywood, California.

Is it even possible that dozens of people could be put to death over the wild run away imaginations of a handful of hyper active children? The details of exactly how this insanity can develop and play out is the gist of the play and it is executed with perfection by the extremely talented cast. The techniques employed are also a bit unusual but highly effective. Taken as a whole you cannot avoid being drawn in fully to the story being told. This is strong, powerful, soul wrenching drama at its finest. And can you believe that there is at least one man on earth who would rather surrender his earthly life than surrender his integrity. You will believe it.

There is not one weak spot in the show – none. But there are a few stand outs including John Allee as the somewhat dimwitted but driven Reverend Parris, Bo Foxworth as John Proctor the condemned man with a stunning sense of integrity and James Sutorius as Governor Danforth the man with a strict sense of law but also justice. I was also most pleased to see the young, beautiful and talented Ranya Jaber as Betty Parris. Hers was not the biggest role but it was as always well executed by this young woman I have had the pleasure of seeing many times on stage throughout the greater southern California area.

We are blessed to live in a city where there are on any given day literally dozens, perhaps even hundreds of entertainment and performance opportunities available to us.

Of them all this particular presentation of “The Crucible” is in my opinion an absolute must see performance. Far more than mere entertainment this show demands critical thought and touches the soul. Once again the Antaeus Theatre Company stands out head and shoulders above its peers with a performance that is truly unforgettable.

The Antaeus Theatre is located at 5112 Lankershim Boulevard, Los Angeles (North Hollywood) , California 91801. Shows are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. with matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. now through July 7th. Reservations and ticket information is available by calling 818-506-1933 or online at www.antaeus.org. Seriously, if you don't see another performance this year, see this one.