

Theater Review: **SPLIT/SCREEN** at Helen Mills Theater

By Viktoria Dana King, Production poster / main image by Slaven Vlasic & Dev Avidon

I had the opportunity to see the daring production of **Split/Screen**; a play written and produced by **Monique Witt**. The play deals with a young man named Kit and his unlikely accident that landed him in a wheelchair and the psychological journey he endured while he waited in the ER with some other unfortunate souls; an older African American woman named Mrs. Oliver and a boy named Rufus. The play abstractly deals with the issues of self-acceptance and perception of others versus perception of self.

Split/Screen opened with jazz musician, Ben Rosenblum, off-stage, passionately playing the keyboard while images were projected on a screen. Once the images ended, the projection screen was raised to reveal Kit, played by Alex Montaldo, sitting in a wheelchair next to a fed-up nurse, played by Eileen Woods. Kit's charismatic and outspoken qualities were unique additions to his bold character; all of which Alex played strongly. The staging of the play was quite simple, which was to be expected from a first time director. The use of small tables, chairs, props and costumes nicely complimented the setting of the play quite well. Kit and the supporting cast managed to make it work, despite occasional messed-up lines, leaving props on stage and William McGregor King's odd performance as the psychiatrist.

Playing to a packed house, the opening started weak, but within ten minutes the play took on a great stride. Overall, **Split/Screen** was very good. The characters were well flushed out and entertaining. I adored Diane Parker's portrayal of Mrs. Oliver, as she was funny, moving and quite flirtatious. Adam Rashad Glenn's portrayal of Rufus was fine. Mike Williams gave a compelling and convincing portrayal as Dr. Miller. Also joining the ranks of great performances was the lead, Alex Montaldo, adding a bumpy, but necessary and inspiring depth to his character and an immense amount of intensity that made it worthwhile. The physicality in his role is commendable. Ben Rosenblum's mixture of classical and jazzy tunes throughout the play gave the two actors, Diane Parker and Dev Avidon the chance to show their vocal talents by singing during a set change.

HELEN MILLS THEATER
NOVEMBER 21-23, 2013
SPLIT/SCREEN
Sometimes life calls you out on the road to Damascus

written by **Monique Witt**
directed by **Mike Williams**
original photo by **Slaven Vlasic**

original artwork by **Dev Avidon**
with live music by **Ben Rosenblum**
...and **Dev Avidon**

produced by **3OCD Productions** www.splitscreentheplay.com

Split/Screen delved into a lot of relatable themes: disapproval from society and/or parents, identity crisis, self-acceptance, jealousy and so much more. It is an unlikely story where the people that meet Kit, as well as Kit himself, all find themselves in the weirdest of ways, simply by acquaintance and inspiration. Kit views his tragedy of being in a wheelchair as a new start to a new life; a life he desires to live for himself. It is amazing to watch everyone in this play become so affected by Kit in some way. One thing is true: Kit may look broken, but he is far from it. I commend the cast and creative staff for providing such a heartfelt, psychological and gripping play that will stay with you after you leave the theater.

For more information or performance dates, go to:
www.splitscreentheplay.com.