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A Gift from Heaven

A stunningly powerful play, this gritty drama is a must see for all avid theatre goers! I'd also recommend it to every naysayer who knocks L.A. theatre this one should give them something to think about. It is everything theatre should be, from the behind-the-scenes efforts to the awe-inspiring performances.

Beautifully written with raw reality by David Steen and directed with breathtaking heart and impeccable timing by Jim Holmes, the audience was riveted to their seats.

The portrayals here are so strong and focused; it is hard to praise them adequately. All are working actors who are loyal students of the highly touted Milton Katselas. Each of them shines individually and explodes as an ensemble! We peer into the dysfunctional lives of an Appalachian family, living dirt poor in the North Carolina Mountains in the 1950s. Fanatical religion, inbred lust, and deeply rooted secrets are revealed as these injured souls interact, each struggling for love.

Beth Grant as the volatile, abusive mother is nothing short of brilliant! A remarkable actress, she earned raves and multiple awards recently for her role in Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife, and deserves them again for this demanding role. As her abused adopted daughter starving for love, Tara Buck gives a gut-wrenchingly skilled performance! Excellent work too, by Michael Petted as the reclusive son, and Tara Killian as the cousin who comes to visit. The scenes these two young actors shared were absolutely beautiful in their innocence.

Gorgeous and mood setting lighting by J. Kent Insay, shabby rustic shack set by Victoria Profitt, earthy costuming by Stasha Surdyke, and moving original music by Chrisostomos D.Argerakis, are all exceptional!

A Gift from Heaven is running through Dec. 19 at The Beverly Hills Playhouse, 254 S. Robertson in Beverly Hills. For seats and times, call (310) 358-9936.