

https://www.niagara-gazette.com/news/night_and_day/over-the-tavern-now-on-stage-at-kavinoky-theatre/article_3df1baaf-cce3-5127-b3db-78a516083849.html

'Over the Tavern' now on stage at Kavinoky Theatre

By DOUG SMITH pollyndoug@hotmail.com Sep 17, 2014



BUFFALO — Without the Tonawandas and Niagara County, Buffalo’s Curtain-Up might stick at half-staff. Kavinoky Theatre “Over the Tavern” director-playwright Tom Dudzick cut his playwriting teeth in North Tonawanda. Star Samuel Fesmire calls the Lumber City home. Beleaguered bread-winner Steve Jakiel teaches at St. Joe’s, with a lengthy rap sheet at Ellicott Creek Playhouse. And Jackson Mysliwy, as special-needs Georgie, can claim not only a Tonawanda home but a Niagara University pedigree.

Against the competition of the Bills’ home opener, the 300-seat Kav was packed Sunday afternoon, most rising as if witnessing a winning touchdown. Downward trends in Catholic education have made 20-year-old “Tavern” a bit of a period piece, which bothered the throng not a whit.

The story concerns Rudy Pazinski, 12 or so, and his challenge to religious rote. Young Fesmire looks so cherubic as to almost demand a halo, and delivers his lines with an easy, innocent pace, especially his down-to-earth, let’s-make-a-deal address to one of the Holy Trinity. He’s a facial match to brother Georgie (Mysliwy), who gets the most out of a dozen-or-so words and is never out of the scene.

Caroline Schletter is a muddle of ungainly adolescence as sister Annie, Connor Graham a package of fury as mid-teen Eddie with his memorable “moving out” shoutdown of his father. Jakiel crafts a justifiably angry barman Chet and Brigitt Markusfeld brings delicious sentiment to her consoling the guilt-ridden, anxious Annie.

As Sister Clarissa, representative of a vocation whose time has regrettably passed, Ellen Horst paints a picture of holy certaintude. Anyone who's ever worn the cloth would fall to her knees.

It's serious stuff with a light touch, and while it speaks of blasphemy, the devout will "get it" far more than the doubters, through Oct. 5 in the European-style playhouse at Porter and Prospect.

0 comments

Sign in

1 person listening

	+ Follow		Post comment as...


Newest | Oldest

meijer
back to school
BOGO 50% off deals
Hover for Circular

STAPLES
50¢ each
Hover for Circular

Niagara Gazette Events

 See All Events

 Add your event

Fri,
Aug
16



Tue,

TUE
13

WED
14

THU
15

FRI
16

SAT
17

SUN
18

MON
19

TUE
20

WED
21

THU
22

FRI
23

SAT
24

