

TA's Kiss of the Spider Woman



A Review by Scott Johnston

An unusual relationship is front and centre in Theatre Aurora's latest play, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

Written by Manuel Puig, the story revolves around two men imprisoned in Buenos Aires.

Molina is an effeminate window dresser who is accused of the corruption of a minor, while Valentin is a political activist, a member of a larger group working to overthrow the government.

Although they are from completely different backgrounds, the two men form a bond in the close confines of their jail cell.

Much of their interaction is based on the favourite movies that Molina vividly describes to his cellmate to help pass the time. Their lives are also brightened by the occasional packages of food provided by Molina's ailing mother.

But we soon find out there's more going on here than meets the eye.

This is a very intimate play in that all of the action takes place within a small jail cell. There are also only two actors, who are onstage together through most of the show.

Darren Fletcher plays Molina in suitably flamboyant style, with emphasis on his creativity and compassion.

Andrew Pawaroo portrays the strong, principled and well-read Valentin, who we quickly learn has a softer side.

Both actors bring believable performances, especially in their characters' relationship to each other, and do an excellent job working within the small part of the stage meant to represent their jail cell.

Theatre Aurora has explored many types of relationships in recent years, but has managed with this play to find an interesting new one to bring to our local stage.

Evening performances of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, February 28, March 1, 7, 8 and 9, with a matinee March 2. Information and tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.