

Theatre Aurora's Blood Relations

A Review by Scott Johnston

Did she, or didn't
she?

Many people are
familiar with the infamous story of Lizzie Borden, even if through the simple
poem that starts 'Lizzie Borden took an axe, and gave her mother 40 whacks'?

But what do we
really know about what happened back in 1892 with the murder of the Borden
parents? Lizzie was eventually acquitted after a sensational murder trial, and
the perpetrator (Lizzie or otherwise) was never identified, so may there be more
to this story?

That's what
audiences are asked to consider in 'Blood Relations', which opens Theatre
Aurora's 61st season.

Written by Canadian
author Sharon Pollock, this psychological play within a play uses facts and
speculation surrounding the famous Massachusetts incident over 125 years ago to
depict events in the Borden household leading up to the murders.

Director Sergio
Calderon, a Theatre Aurora veteran, has a great cast to work with. All of the
actors do an excellent job of creating characters who are confident that they
are doing the right thing in the interests of themselves and everyone else, while
they are simultaneously and unknowingly pushing Lizzie's mental buttons.

The
cast includes Robert Ball and
Gerri Sefi as parents Andrew and Abigail Borden, Brian Fukuzawa as Andrew's
brother Harry, Karen Fogleman as
Lizzie's sister Emma, and Glen Warren as potential suitor Dr. Patrick.

Shelagh
Carlini as Lizzie and Angie Sapalovski as the actress who is studying Lizzie, and who portrays her
in the play-within-a-play reveal women who run the gamut from sympathetic to
creepy.

The set is simple but
effective. Excellent use of lighting, music and sound effects help ratchet up
the tension as the play progresses.

With this
production Theatre Aurora is starting its current season's theme of murder and

mayhem on a strong note.

So, did she, or
didn't she? That's up to you to decide.

Evening
performances of "Blood Relations" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150
Henderson Drive, October 24, 25 and 26.

Information and tickets
are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.