BWW Review: MOBY DICK at Alliance Theatre

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A by Justin Cole Adams

Theatre, like most things in life, can become the subject of repetition and become very boring. MOBY DICK at the ALLIANCE THEATRE is not an example of this, however. Starting in Chicago at the Tony Award-winning Lookingglass Theatre, this innovative, artistic work of art is not quite what you would expect. Director David Catlin adapted the piece initially with Lookingglass Theatre and The Actors Gymnasium.

The reimagined show features many visually appealing elements. The set allows the audience to see an inn, ship or the vast ocean. The biggest aspect of the set was a fly system, which is a series of ropes, pulleys and counterweights that allow crew and cast members to hoist props, lighting fixtures and



various materials. You may not be aware of this pulley system because in most cases it is hidden off stage, but not in this play. Everything is exposed, giving the audience an incredible sightline to visualise the transformations happening right in front of their eyes.

This minimalistic vision allows for so much action on stage as well as above it. A large portion of the show features acrobatics which ties in beautifully to the characters looking for whales on the masts or being thrown overboard. This creative element keeps the show interesting while giving the viewer something you would expect out of a Cirque du Soleil show.

The real magic behind the show was the three actresses behind putting together the character of Fate. Kelley Abell, Cordelia Dewdney and Kasey Foster worked constantly throughout the show to portray multiple characters and ideas to keep the play afloat. The continuous development of their characters both visually and spiritually is thrilling.

The ALLIANCE THEATRE is a Tony Award-winning theatre based in Midtown Atlanta. They are known for taking concepts, developing them and debuting into world premieres. Several of their original works have transferred to Broadway, including BRING IT: ON THE MUSICAL and TUCK EVERLASTING. MOBY DICK is running through October 30 at the ALLIANCE THEATRE, located inside the Woodruff Arts Center. For more information, click here.