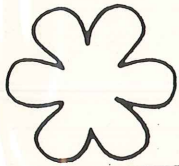


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theatre review



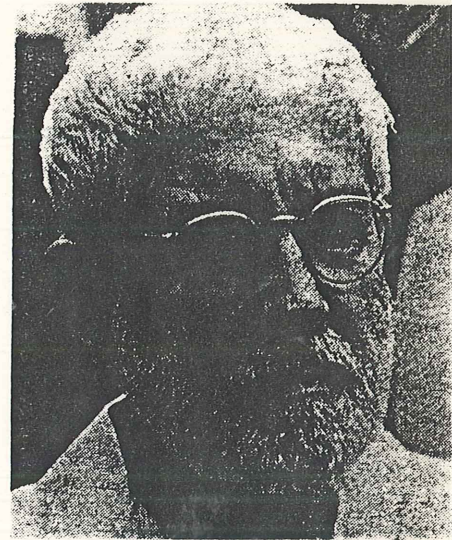
Jack Sturdy

Papa

The world premiere of Pulitzer Prize winner John deGroot's new play *Papa* was an evening of tantalizing, magical theatre. A one-man show starring venerable character actor Bill Hindman as legendary Ernest Hemingway, the prose rolled from Hindman's lips like honey. Thanks to Philip Church's astute direction, a haunting score by Dorothy Hindman and Dean Kennedy's functional yet detailed set, the mood was set for Hindman's tour de force.

The actor found nuance within each of deGroot's well-turned phrases. It was a confluence of thought and action as the actor tread through the light and dark of the author's words, and deGroot deserves particular credit for structuring his piece in Hemingway's lean, lyrical style. It is true to Hemingway's philosophy of writing one true sentence.

Set in 1957 in Hemingway's hilltop home outside of Havana, the play is based on the writings and the memories of the Nobel Prize winner. Steeped in sometimes amusing and sometimes painful anecdotes, Hindman takes us on a journey through Hemingway's recollections. "My mother's name was Grace," he tells us, "not that she had any." As he skewers his family with pained unforgiving acerbic barbs, he notes that words can build a nice cage for pain, and thus begins his writing career.



Bill Hindman

The author's infamous flirtation with themes of death is explained simply. "All stories end in death if you let them go on long enough," he grimaces. "All you have is yourself and your dreams." Hindman kissed each anecdote with a simplicity and forthrightness that was mesmerizing.

Papa, which plays at the Colony Theatre on Miami Beach through October 10th, is a special evening of theatre. For ticket information, call (305) 532-2806.