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Dark themes, bright performance

'Necropolis' takes the stage at Showplace Peterborough

Posted By JANE BOW

"Necropolis," a one-act play by American playwright Don Nigro, brought verbal, sexual and ideological fireworks to the Showplace stage last night.

Every line in this dialogue between a young woman in an unnamed, war-torn eastern European country and the American journalist with whom she has just spent the night is packed with multifarious tensions when the journalist, Post, beautifully played by Beau Dixon, discovers that the woman is a sniper who shoots people she considers the enemy.

As the sniper, Anna, An Kosurko uses body, gesture, facial expression and a flawless eastern European accent to articulate how a competitive shooter became a self-designated killer. And then goes on to lay bare first the hypocrisy in her lover's repulsion and then the childishness of his American desire to rescue her. Kosurko's was as fine a performance as you will see anywhere in Canadian theatre.

The truths are bold and hard in this play and seasoned director Bea Quarrie did a wonderful job choreographing the actors' movements to make the power visual. Dixon's tall muscular physique contrasted well with Kosurko's slight grace sometimes to underscore, other times to act as counterpoint to intimate and brutal subject matter that compares the life and death of an ant to the playing out of human desecration.

It sounds dreadful, but out of the portrayal of horrors that are taking place around the globe even as I write this, and of evil that twists through life "like a worm in an apple," these actors, director and playwright have created artful understanding out of which compassion can grow.

Jane Bow is a freelance reviewer for The Examiner.