

Greater Lansing Ubiquitous Theatre

Search

[Announcements](#) [Events Calendar](#) [Auditions](#) [Reviews](#) [Theatres](#) [About the G.L.U.T.](#)

A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes

11/9/2024

0 Comments

A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes by Kate Benmson is relatable and funny and sad as it cascades from the absurd to the grotesque.

I'm not a fan of the title — I guess it does hint at Thanksgiving, and the lake does factor in occasionally — but the title gives no clue that this Thanksgiving is presented as a “sporting event.” Charmingly cheesy sportscasters Thomas Evansky and Jewell Redman provide the play-by-play, pleasantly masking their personal conflicts, projected onto two large screens above Wharton’s Pasant Stage.

There is a door and large kitchen window at the back, but the stage is empty with the floor marvelously painted like a basketball court that has been overlaid with multiple other sports floors. (Scenic Design, Matty Peterson) As the “players” are introduced, there are clever sports-bio type photos and captions projected on the screens — sometimes too quickly to be fully read and appreciated by the audience. (Media design Brandon McDuff)

The wow factor of this show is the choreography. No, it’s not a musical, but an elaborate pantomime/dance/sports/fight of family competition. With zero actual props, we “see” everything — from two kinds of stuffing, to table placement, to turkey turning, to “an uncountable herd of great grand-babies” and more. Director Brad Willcuts is known for his work with movement, dance and fight choreography — and he has combined it all in this “sport of Thanksgiving” depicting a wide variety of characters both helping and hurting each other. In his directors note he hopes to inspire us to “see those close to us with fresh eyes and a renewed sense if empathy.”

Kudos to the rest of the ensemble cast: Brooke Cousins, Tyler Finch, Shelby Ginsburg, Cayla Hardaway, Kyle Jedrusik, Andrew Keller, Mandy Michelle Marsili, Reese Martiin, Natalie Palencik, Shelby Parker, Jameson Patrona, Tyler Radze, Sam Smelser, Alec Tran, Noah Trapp, Logan Verlinde, Hugh Watters, Cassidy Williams, Lyric Williams, and Rileigh Belle Wine.

A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes runs an hour and a half with no intermission. It continues through November 17. Tickets at <https://whartoncenter.venue.net/events/WC-DOT-BEAUTIFUL>

Like 0

Post

POWERED BY

Reviews

Read more about Jane and the creation of the G.L.U.T. on the "[About G.L.U.T.](#)" page.

 [RSS Feed](#)

Categories

All
All Of Us Express Children's Theatre
All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre
Blue Light Players
Grand Ledge HS
Homegrown Productions
Ixion Ensemble
LCC Dept. Of Theatre
Mid Michigan Family Theatre
MSU Dept. Of Theatre
MSU Summer Circle
MSU Summer Circle Theatre
MSU Summer Circle Theatre
Okemos HS
Over The Ledge
Owosso Community Players
Peppermint Creek Theatre
Peppermint Creek Theatre
Renegade Theatre Festival
Riverwalk Theatre
Riverwalk Theatre
Starlight Dinner Theatre
The Studio Performing Arts Center
Wharton Center (MSU)
Williamston Theatre

Post Archives