

REVIEWS • Theatre

Dark Rapture

Reviewed by Elias Stimac

Presented by Pilot House, at NADA 45, 445 W. 45th St., NYC, May 13-30.

Pilot House is quickly making a name for itself on the local theatre scene. The company's current outing is a dark comedy-drama by Eric Overmyer titled "Dark Rapture," which follows a group of disparate friends and business associates from one exotic locale to another in search of a dead guy and two suit-

cases full of money. The results of this rollicking roller-coaster ride are intriguing and hilarious.

In the same vein as the cinematic comic caper "Get Shorty," playwright Overmyer has crafted a rather crafty tale of crooks, con men, and civilians caught up in the chase for millions of missing dollars. His dialogue is sharp and witty, and the characters are so colorful that audience members may find themselves laughing at their antics even when they simply cross the stage.

Donald Jordan has directed the action with plenty of intensity and attitude. He also raises the stakes by staging very believable seduction scenes and violent confrontations. Jordan has cast the play for maximum effect, doubling and tripling roles to allow the actors to show their

versatility. Annmarie Benedict is cool and convincing as an industry exec literally under the gun; and Michael Criscuolo is likably laid back as her suspected husband. Paul Carter gives his dual characters intelligence and integrity, and is excellent in both roles. Sharon Elzman and Deborah Morgan are sassy and sexy as two women who get involved with the mystery man. Ed Sambucci and Dan Truman make a frighteningly funny pair of hired thugs, among other roles, and Nathan Decoux and Chad Smith are also impressive in their various portrayals.

Manny Bocchieri keeps the production design streamlined to accommodate the multiple settings, and the uncredited costumes really help distinguish the characters.