

POW'R IN THE BLOOD FLOWS IN MANY WAYS

Robert McKinney, Bristol Herald Courier 01/31/2008

“ . . . *Pow'r in the Blood*, the first production in Barter Theatre's 75th season, is a strangely compelling play penned by T. Cat Ford, which, on the surface, seems to be about mother/daughter conflict, but, in my opinion anyway, has a throbbing pulse deep within that goes far deeper than just the stock situation of parent/child disappointments in one another, a common, soap-opera-ish and clichéd theme of thousands of usually forgettable books, plays and movies.

This play is hardly any of those and it will leave you thinking, but don't expect to depart the theatre with anything neatly bagged and toe-tagged. As with all the really classic stories from Homer to Hemmingway its ending is left open for your own interpretation. . . .”

POW'R IN THE ACTING

Shari Stacy, Washington County News 02/01/2008

“The first production of Barter's 75th season is a powerful play by T. Cat Ford. Pow'r in the Blood, first presented last year in the Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights series, is a story of a mother-daughter relationship with its ups and often devastating downs. Featuring a strong ensemble cast, Pow'r is an impressive theatrical event that should not be missed by those who can appreciate an unsentimental story and can look honestly at illness and dying. . . . Pow'r in the Blood is good, solid theatre. The story has pathos and yet it also has many laugh-out-loud moments that make for a very satisfactory play-going experience.”

STAGE CRAFT

Wytheville Enterprise Staff

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By PRISCILLA HALL/Columnist

"Funny and thought-provoking are the terms that come to mind when describing the premier production of "Pow'r in the Blood" at Barter Theatre's Stage II. It deals with a serious subject – death – but playwright T. Cat Ford has exaggerated the humorous aspects just enough to make the play a comedy. . . . Following Sunday night's performance, Evalyn Baron, associate director at Barter, led a panel discussion that elicited comments from the audience as well. Panel members included Hospice care-givers and a Baptist minister, all of whom remarked on how realistically, how true-to-life, how typically, and even how beautifully, the play deals with the subject of the death of a loved-one. . . "

Barter Theatre Patron comment:

"Outstanding! This was by far one of the most moving plays my wife and I have attended at the Barter. The depth, quality and performance will certainly last as a memorable one. It was uncannily funny, intensely dramatic, inspirationally real and emotionally challenging. When attending a performance that has you reflecting on the message and delivery well beyond the theatre then you've hit a home run, and in the experience we shared in the performance of "Power in the Blood" you undoubtedly hit a Grand Slam. Thanks to all for a brilliant performance."