Written by Mike Schulz Wednesday, 18 June 2008 02:24



Just because *Three Viewings* - the area debut by the Curtainbox Theater Company, previously based in Los Angeles - is being staged at St. Ambrose University, and features St. Ambrose theatre professor Corinne Johnson among its cast, don't assume that this trio of Jeffrey Hatcher monologues will be any sort of academic exercise.

Having said that, any student of performance would be badly remiss in skipping this production, since Johnson, Dave Bonde, and Kimberly Furness (the latter two among the Curtainbox's five founders) are pretty much giving master classes in the art of stage acting.

Having said *that*, anyone who's *not* a student of performance would be badly remiss in skipping this production, because *Three Viewings* is about as enjoyable a stage presentation as you're likely to find anywhere. For 90 breathless, intermission-less minutes, the show's cast and director Daniel D.P. Sheridan fashion entire worlds of hilarity and heartache out of Hatcher's solo pieces, and at Friday night's performance, did so without a hint of strain (though, given the minimal air circulation in St. Ambrose's black-box space, just a little sweat). During the rapturous audience response that greeted the curtain call, I'm sure I wasn't alone in wishing the performance had lasted twice as long as it did.

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