

ALLARTSREVIEW4U

“Getting Out”

By Bob Anthony

Journeyman Theater's production of Marsha Norman's "Getting Out" wows with emotional punches again and again and again during the two hour drama with, fortunately, a ten minute intermission to recover from the first act violence. This is a solid award winning play presented by a more solid cast of nine. Sometimes a few of the actors get too emotionally involved in their characterizations and lines are mumbled but the emotions carry the intent. Not so with Charlotte Akin and lead Alia Faith Williams who give complete and sterling presentations. Ms. Akin lights up the stage while presenting her emotionally punishing mother. And Ms. Williams tears at the heart strings with her huge self punishing Arlene who thinks a name change will suffice to rehabilitate her back into society. The story has two running scenarios of the young Arlie in prison and Arlene on parole who tries to set up her new apartment. Tiffany Fillmore fully plays the young Arlie who rants and raves and screams demands during imprisonment. Victor Steele is a complete stage natural and is very convincing as the prison guard who is ambivalent in treating Arlene either as a helpmate or as his sexual prey. Jason McCool is the villain as he tried to entice Arlene back into nefarious activities in lieu of her intent to rehabilitate with a job and look forward to rejoining her son that she had to give up for adoption. Miles Butler impresses with a wholesome teasing character even though he spends less than three minutes on stage. Lolita-Marie Clayton presented a fine tongue-in-cheek neighbor with worldly advice and wisecracks but with a solid heart of gold underneath. Lee Liebesking and Joe Palka were tried and true troupers in varied roles. Deborah Kirby again directs with heaps of sensitivity throughout as she confirms the mandate of this theater group to address social and moral issues. The technicals belie the low budget of this theater...they are absolutely perfect. The orders to the inmates to introduce both acts is fascinating. This is a highly recommended show that one carries away from the theater to ponder over for a long time. (To 9/22) (Reviewed by Bob Anthony)