

Thy Neighbour's Wife

Summary:

1915 Alberta; Jennie Hawkes is busy on the home front - what with rationing, attending meetings for the Women's Christian Temperance Union and making bandages for soldiers with the Red Cross. Wilfred Hawkes is busy tending to his elderly neighbour's young wife, Rosella Stoley. Of Wilfred's many indiscretions, this one is the least discreet by far. Even a lady of Jennie's mettle cannot step around this liaison with grace - every woman has her limits and Wilfred has finally found the distance to which he cannot push his own wife.

Inspired by the true story of the first woman sentenced to hang in Alberta, *Thy Neighbour's Wife* is a frank and scrutinizing look at marriage, manners, money, and murder.

Aisling Corrigan, the Hawkes household's Irish maidservant, will be your eyes and ears as she guides you through the strained marriage of Jennie and Wilfred. More importantly, she will invite you to feel the parallels between women wronged, overlooked and subsequently empowered, all drawn of an era that is applicable to our own in this tribute to the power of sisterhood against all odds.

Press:

Named as one of the "Best 40 moments in Theatre"
-*Calgary Herald*, July 18, 2007.

"A production with solid, dimensional female characters... Beagan, who has already provided the sparkling script, gives her narrator a life and vitality that invigorates an already perfectly written character... Following her, not only do we have no problems understanding the tale, but we easily connect to it and enjoy its depth."
-James Dangerous- Calgary, *FFWD* 2007

"4 Stars-...don't let the words "historical drama" deter you; Tara Beagan's incisive and witty play is neither staid nor stuffy."
Jennifer Besner- Toronto, *eye weekly*

"Critics Pick- The author puts forward a powerful feminist reading of the material, but the show's striking theatricality makes the piece far more than a lesson in gender issues... An auspicious production, full of dramatic magic"
Jon Kaplan-Toronto, *NOW magazine*

Awards:

Thy Neighbour's Wife garnered 3 *Betty Mitchell Award* nominations for Urban Curves Theatre's production in 2007, & 3 *Dora Mavor Moore* nominations for UnSpun Theatre in 2004- winning Outstanding New Play- Independent Theatre Category.

Company:

Director- Lynda Adams

Designer- Patrick Beagan
Aisling Corrigan- Lisa Heinrichs
Jennie Hawes- Lori Ravensborg
Rosella Stoley- Jennifer Tibo
Wilfred Hawkes- Scott Black
Fiddler- Marcelle Nokony

Prime Stock Theatre Artistic Director- Thomas Usher

Mandate:

Prime Stock Theatre is an artist – driven theatre that cultivates & challenges limits of expression and expectation; dedicated to producing a “Canadian” repertoire that is thematically rich, visually adventurous and intellectually daring!