THOSE WHISTLING LADS!: THE POETRY AND SHORT STORIES OF DOROTHY PARKER

TimeSpace Theatre Company at the WorkShop Theater as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival

Interspersed among the six poems and five stories by Dorothy Parker, the Algonquin Round Table’s feminine wit, is a biography that ties in the lady’s tumultuous early life (at least two suicide attempts) with these literary works in Those Whistling Lads!: The Poetry and Short Stories of Dorothy Parker.

Playwright Maureen Van Trease impersonates Parker with authority. The other cast members—Ethan Angelica, Justin Herfel, Annalyse McCoy, Glenn B. Stoops, Natalie Wilder, and Hannah Wolfe—enter spouting Parker’s droll aphorisms and play the characters in the stories, four of them dealing with the perilous relationships between men and women, along with a droll sketch about three lovelorn ladies anxiously waiting for the phone to ring. Famous names abound, from Benchley to Hemingway to adulterous lover Charles McArthur.

“Serves me right for putting all my eggs in one bastard,” Parker quipped.

Though Lads! is a little heavy on the exposition, Parker’s surefire material and an adept cast help the play, under Bricken Sparacino’s direction, flow well, some rough patches notwithstanding.

Presented by TimeSpace Theatre Company in association with Anne Baxter as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival at the WorkShop Theater, 312 W. 36th St., 4th floor, NYC.

Jul. 20–Aug. 1. Remaining performances: Tue., July 22, 6:30 p.m.; Thu., July 24, 6:30 p.m.; Sat., July 26, 5 p.m.; Sun., July 27, 6:30 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 1, 8:30 p.m.

(212) 279-4200 or www.ticketcentral.com

Reviewed by Harry Forbes