

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF *THE SPECTRUM*

September 16, 2009

by Homer Kearns

Bravo! to the cast and crew of "EXPOSED," The Space Between Theater and author Mary Dickson! Director Doug Caputo and cast brought to life a very important past chapter of our lives.

Everyone in Southern Utah must see this play. The nuclear testing and the "unexpected" results comprised only the first chapter and many of us see it as too long ago to matter much. But then came "Divine Strake," with other possible consequences to those of us "downwind" from the testing site. We stopped it.

And now, scheduled for this coming Friday in St. George, the National Nuclear Security Administration is scheduled to hold a "scoping" meeting "...for the continued operation of activities at the Nevada test site and off-site locations...". One of the goals of the NSA is to maintain an 18 month nuclear testing readiness posture.

So, as it turns out, this play, which uses government documents and eye-witness accounts to portray the horrors of the past, is only the prologue!

See the play; it's very important history, whether you have a "downwinder" in your family or not; and it's obviously part of a larger, ongoing drama in which we are ALL players!

Homer Kearns
Ivins, Utah

**REVIEW OF "EXPOSED," produced by
THE SPACE BETWEEN THEATRE COMPANY**

by audience member, Ginny Kowal
September 12, 2009

Don't miss the latest presentation by The Space Between Theatre Company...
"EXPOSED," being presented at the Green Valley Spa.

Greg and I attended the opening night performance and were totally blown away. Yes, the subject matter (downwinders) sounds like a true "downer," but the message still needs to be heard. The play also has humor and a bit of an edge in some of the dialog, so don't hang on to the notion that it's a downer.

The fact that so much of the cover-up and propaganda by the Federal government was directed at St. George and surrounding communities makes this very much a hometown issue. And the denial/rejection by the local populace about the effects of the radiation exposure is still "radiating" brightly... even as the effects are still manifesting today. This production is timely and on target, especially if you recall the latest "Divine" inspiration for nuclear testing.

Doug Caputo has really done a fantastic job of directing this multimedia play about the U.S. Government detonating over 928 nuclear bombs in the So. Nevada desert, and the fallout on the lives and health of all of us. He uses actual newsreel footage of events and news in addition to artistically recreating other film footage. It flows from live actors to film faultlessly.

Doug is magnificent playing Howard Hughes...and others. The cast also includes our neighbors Martha Smythe and Michael Verdu, along with tech support (on lights) from Corey Keahiler.

One very important detail...the dialog of the the government officials is verbatim from actual government records and transcripts -- very informative, scary and maddening.

We came away with the feeling that "Exposed" is a very well done, thought-provoking and entertaining night of live theatre.

Do yourselves a favor... DON'T MISS THIS!!!

Ginny Kowal

Space Between Theatre Co: www.TSBTC.org

Review: “Exposed” by The Space Between Theatre Company

By: J. M. Keeler
September 12, 2009

THE SPACE BETWEEN’S PRODUCTION OF “EXPOSED” REVEALS ALL

“Exposed” is The Space Between Theatre Company’s new offering, written by Utah journalist, Mary Dickson. First performed in 2007, it garnered national awards and attention, as an artistic work and for its controversial subject, “downwinders.” What gives this play its punch? After all, downwinders are just an unlucky few “downwind” from nuclear testing fallout in the middle-of-nowhere, more than 50 years ago – right?

If this sounds like old news, think again. And if you think a play about downwinders is going to be as dull as a seventh-grade filmstrip, then you haven’t seen “Exposed.” It is riveting and funny, terrifying and relevant, disturbing and moving. Whatever you think about downwinders and how they got that way, “Exposed” will likely stand your opinion on its head.

“Exposed” is well-directed by The Space Between co-founder, Douglas Caputo, and he makes good use of documentary-style filmed segments within the play. No other productions of “Exposed” have used this technique, and it is very effective. The filmed portions are a mix of archival footage and newly-filmed segments featuring several Space Between “regulars.” The new footage blends in well with the old. The film actors were also directed by Douglas Caputo and turn in some excellent performances.

Director **Douglas Caputo** takes a turn in front of the camera as billionaire **Howard Hughes** and **Dr. Harold Knapp**; **Travis Cox** plays an **Official** with ethical doubts; **Whitney Cox** has the role of **Dorothy Jones**, activist; **Roger Dunbar** plays **Bill Heller**, offering an East Coast downwind perspective; **Nathan Eames** portrays a chilling, single-minded Government **Official**; **Dan Hesse** is the **Rancher** who has suffered through a different kind of loss; **John Parkinson**, a TSB co-founder and Technical Director of “Exposed,” is the discredited but unbowed **Colonel Raymond Brim**; **Dr. Gordon Reynolds** plays a concerned physician, **Dr. Childress**; **Crystal Sutton** is **Elizabeth Bruhn Catalan**, portraying fallout’s tragic consequences to women and children; and Congressman Carter is played by **Jerry Trop**.

Author Mary Dickson is a surviving downwinder and the play is based on her personal experience and research. The government’s deception is revealed by contrasting transcripts of classified meetings with the “official” statements released to the public. “Exposed” is written about real people and actual events, in chronological order. The script is all the more shocking because it contains verbatim language from many authentic sources. There are even a few particularly choice words from then-President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ). The most memorable lines, however, come from the downwinders themselves.

There are some very funny moments in the play. Archival footage instructs schoolchildren to “duck and cover” in case of nuclear attack. A song about Bert, the alert turtle, encourages vigilance. Preston Truman, a colorful character, cares about his goats and tomatoes as strongly as he cares about his fellow downwinders. “Exposed” paints a human portrait of people confronting their lives, their illness and their loss with strength and humor.

“Exposed” has a strong cast of actors in the on-stage roles, many of whom have appeared in other Space Between productions. **Mary Dickson** is the main character, well-played by **Aly Hansen**. Although this is Aly’s first stage appearance, she seems more experienced than that. During at least one scene, the audience was completely hushed except for the sounds of tears and rustling tissues.

Dianne Marius plays Mary's sister, **Ann**. She evokes a powerful response from the audience as she changes from being Mary's beloved sister to becoming yet another victim of fallout.

Lorie Hawley plays the outspoken St. George activist and downwinder, **Michelle Thomas**. Lorie conveys a sense of Michelle's deteriorating health as the play progresses, and has some of the best lines in the play. The character of **Preston Truman**, played by veteran actor **Rick Pickett**, doesn't hesitate to speak his mind in colorful language.

The other actors play multiple roles. **Martha Smythe** plays **Carole Gallegher**, and is sympathetic as the ill and elderly **Darlene Phillips**. **Marie Langness** plays a **Museum Guard** and is unsettling as an **Official** who monotonically repeats the dishonest statements of government officials. She is joined in the chilling repetition by **Ciara Leavitt**, who plays a counterpart **Official**, as well as the **Sales Clerk** in the Museum gift shop. **Michael Verdu** is the pleasant tour guide, **Al**, proud of his test-site work and oblivious to his own risk.

TSB productions never have fancy costumes or sets, but they may have reached a new "minimal" in "Exposed." The most prominent set piece is a projection screen in the middle of the stage. On both sides of the screen is a small area with versatile black cubes. But nothing else seems to be needed. The unfolding story is riveting and the use of the filmed footage makes for good story-telling.

The play ends with a simple, heart-rending reading of deceased downwinders' names. It is a poignant moment and a moving finish. As Mary says in the play, "the dead are so easily forgotten."

I saw "Exposed" twice (on opening night and on the following night) for the "talk-back" sessions after the performances, a tradition of The Space Between. It was especially worthwhile after "Exposed," as author Mary Dickson came from Salt Lake City to attend the performances and talk-back sessions on the first weekend.

On the second night, Michelle Thomas (another real person and character in the play) also attended. Although she had to be carried down the stairs in her wheelchair, Michelle is still an activist for downwinder issues and is as feisty as the play portrays her.

The audience asked good questions that evoked articulate and interesting responses from Mary and Michelle. Mary talked about the personal pain of losing her sister and in writing the play. When asked about downwinder skeptics who don't believe that fallout caused these illnesses, Mary replied, "nothing convinces you faster than a diagnosis."

How to see "Exposed"

<i>Dates</i>	September 10, 11, 12 (Mary Dickson weekend) September 17, 18, 19 September 24, 25, 26
<i>Time</i>	7:30 pm
<i>Location</i>	Green Valley Spa, Conference Center 1871 West Canyon View Drive St. George, Utah 84770

NOTES: There is no handicapped access to the Conference Center at the Green Valley Spa, and navigation of stairs is required. Due to mature themes, The Space Between recommends "Exposed" for adults. General admission to "Exposed" is \$15 and tickets can be purchased on-line at www.TSBTC.org, or reserve seats by calling The Space Between at 435-216-5523.