

Evie's Waltz

Reviewed by Harry Hamm
KMOX-AM

Good dramatic theater ignites a little fire in your mind. The best plays take a while to digest. The world premiere presentation of St. Louis-based playwright Carter W. Lewis' potent *Evie's Waltz* does both.

Set on the patio of a suburban home, the show opens with a married couple arguing about a situation with their teenage son while they prepare a cookout dinner. Seems the boy has been expelled for taking a gun to school in cahoots with his girlfriend Evie. The parents are awaiting the arrival of Evie's mother so the quandry can be discussed, but without warning Evie herself bursts on the patio, and from that moment on hold onto your seats, folks, because the dramatic firepower is unlike anything you've experienced before.

The mysterious and manipulating Evie is played with daring abandon by Magan Wiles. It's the kind of performance that dares you not to watch. Ted Deasy and Annie Fitzpatrick are the parents, driven by feelings of trendy denial, anger, confusion and eventually, fear.

Director Andrea Urice has molded a show so dramatically muscular that even in one act and a relatively short one hour and fifteen minutes, it's heavyweight theater that will strain the strongest psyche. There were a few lines flubbed on opening night, but little else went awry.

Evie's Waltz is full of suspenseful surprises. It's a dance of danger and daring. It's timely. It will be your loss if you sit this *Waltz* out.