



Theatre Review

By Neda Heeter

“Underneath The Lintel” is a don’t miss production!

Imagine a librarian at a Dutch library finding a book in the overnight depository that is 123 years overdue. That is the premise for “Underneath the Lintel” currently performing on the Waxlax Stage at Riverside Theatre. The production, a one-actor show, stars James VanValen as The Librarian and is directed by Riverside Theatre’s Producing Artistic Director Allen D. Cornell.

Set on a minimal stage in the intimate Waxlax Theatre the show follows the librarian who becomes obsessed with finding the story of the person behind the overdue book. Quite simply, it becomes a personal quest that takes a journey through history and around the world. The Waxlax Stage is the perfect venue for this performance. It allows the audience to become personally involved with the actor.

Mr. VanValen’s talent and his ability to engage the audience become apparent immediately. His performance is funny, witty, touching, informative, sad, riveting and provocative and he does it all magnificently. The audience becomes caught up in his journey as he at times provokes them to ponder difficult questions yet he also engages them with humor and wit. He is clearly a master of his craft. His presence fills the stage and his ability to weave and tell a story is outstanding. Don’t miss it.

“Underneath the Lintel” was written by Glen Berger. Mr. Cornell also served as Scenic Designer with the remaining design team consisting of Rebecca Montero (Lighting Designer), Emily Baldwin (Costume Designer), Josh Schacht (Sound Designer) and Melissa A. Nathan (Stage Manager).

“Underneath The Lintel” performs January 27 – February 8, 2015 on the Waxlax Stage at Riverside Theatre. For tickets, go to www.riversidetheatre.com.