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"The Bone yard" and "Talisman": Greed and Apocalypse

June 24, 2013

12:40 AM MST

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Kate Huffman as Corrine in "The Bone yard" against the wall.

Laura Ann Tull

"The Bone yard" and "Talisman" are two One Act plays weaved into a seventy minute performance that had its world premiere as part of the Hollywood Fringe Festival running from June 8 to June 29th, 2013. These plays by Timothy McNeil, directed by David Fofi, and produced by Kate Huffman and Joseph Thomasini use metaphor and the setting of the end of the world to comment on the hypocrisy and effects of greed in a time of mass destruction. Unlike the recently released film "World War Z" with huge special effects, the production uses a very sparse set with limited props to aid in the creation of a post [apocalypse](#) world.

"The Bone yard" is about two street youths in Los Angeles who as the city "bleeds" with an invasion of mysterious soldiers are forced to unbury a deceased father. The play revolves around the themes

of family, social status, love and greed. The two youths, Corrine played by Kate Huffman and Albert played by Joseph Tomasini in a desperate attempt for survival unbury Albert's father. In the process they discover the shades of gray that exist in a society on the brink. The play weighs the importance of money, friendship, greed, philanthropy, family, strangers, and love when everything may be coming to an end. Albert and Corrine are both seeking something, though for Albert it is something intangible to fix old wounds and understand the past at a time when there may not be a future.

The production does not pause from one act play to the other, but instead uses effectively a performance art dance transition choreographed by Chris-Gerard Hayward. The Apocalypse cast Don Colliver, Lena Enck, Frank Merino, Dah-uh Morrow, and Brice Pendergraft perform a zombie like act and then become part of the set of "The Talisman."

"The Talisman" explores the conflict of the greed of Wall Street versus the idealistic artistry of the actor in its two lead characters Larry played by Timothy McNeil, the writer, and Natalie played by Kate Huffman. Larry is a former Wall Street financier who has taken to robbing the dead bodies of soldiers to finance his survival while Natalie clings to her principals and a large emerald that to her is her world. It is an exploration of what is valuable and the impact of coveting the wrong things the wrong way. In a way both Larry and Natalie's view of what is important is stripped to the core. Both are flawed and like all good theater lead the audiences to perhaps question their own choices- feed someone in need or negotiate from greed or hold onto the past to the bitter end.

The Bone yard and Talisman have two more performances on June 27th at 7 pm and June 29th at 4 pm at the Elephant Stages in Hollywood.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- **Movie Review: 'World War Z' may not be new, but offers plenty of thrills**
- **The Play "Seven Dreams of Falling:" Adapting the old to comment on the new**



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LA Performing Arts Examiner

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