

summerworks festival wrap-up

# SummerWorked it

Despite the rain, the strong fest drew record crowds By JON KAPLAN and GLENN SUMI

## SCANNING SUMMERWORKS

A few of the more promising shows among the 42 being presented this year by SummerWorks:

**Ablaze** The story of two sisters from Newfoundland who are concert violinists. Author Jayne Collins is joined by the powerful duo of Nicky Guadagni and Rosa Laborde.

**Communist Till Payday** When the multi-talented Anand Rajaram is writing, starring in and directing this "neo-vaudeville escapade of showmanship," interesting things are bound to happen.

**Crush** Hume Baugh's "story of troubled relationships" in a small Ontario town features nudity, homophobia, a knife and even (gasp!) cigarette smoke — although the last, at least, is guaranteed to be herbal.

**Foto** Andrew Kushnir's script about the Ukrainian-Canadian ghetto sounds provocative, Adam Pettle is directing and Dawn Greenhalgh is starring. Three good reasons to pay it a visit.

**If We Were Birds** Some of this city's best actors (Philippa Domville, David Fox, Tara Rosling) are in Erin Shield's study of women ravaged through various horrific 20th-century conflicts.

**In Darfur** As topical as tomorrow's headlines, this play by Winter Miller explores the morality of journalism when it threatens to endanger the lives of the innocent.



### OUTSTANDING NEW PLAYS:

If We Were Birds; Dust; Any Night; Khalida; Foto; Fridays With Frieda

### OUTSTANDING PRODUCTIONS:

In Darfur; Dust; Any Night; The Dwarfs; Foto; If We Were Birds; A Soldier's Story; Pelee; Lauchie, Liza and Rory; The Pastor Phelps Project; Fewer Emergencies; Fridays With Frieda

### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES:

Brandon Coffey and Jessica Moss (Dust); Talya Rubin (The Girl With No Hands); Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn (Any Night); Djennie Laguerre (Rendezvous With Home); Jason Jazrawy (Khalida); Natasha MacLellan and Christian Murray

(Lauchie, Liza and Rory); Valerie Bhagiar (Marla's Party); Tawiah McCarthy (The Kente Cloth)

### OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLES:

Raising Luke; In Darfur; The Dwarfs; Foto; If We Were Birds; Waiting; A Soldier's Story; I'm So Close It's Not Even Funny; Pelee; Ablaze; 2½ Breaths; The Pastor Phelps Project; Fewer Emergencies; (Never Underestimate) The Power; The Red Devil; Fridays With Frieda

### OUTSTANDING DIRECTION:

Alan Dilworth (If We Were Birds); Claire Calnan (Raising Luke); Andrew Lamb (In Darfur); Ron Jenkins (Any Night); Jennifer Tarver (The Dwarfs); Alexandra Seay (Khalida); Adam Pet-

tle (Foto); Anita La Selva (A Soldier's Story); Mary-Colin Chisholm (Lauchie, Liza and Rory); Alistair Newton (The Pastor Phelps Project); Brendan Healy (Fewer Emergencies); Jonathan Seinen (The Red Devil); John Gordon (Fridays With Frieda)

### OUTSTANDING DESIGN:

Lindsay Anne Black and Michelle Ramsay (In Darfur; Khalida); Peter Pokorny, Erin Macklem, Davis Fraser and Gord Heal (Any Night); Thomas Ryder Payne (Khalida); Jung-Hye Kim, Kimberly Purtell and Thomas Ryder Payne (If We Were Birds); Iner Souster and Howie Shia (Pelee)

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