

LOCAL PLAY: At Stirling Festival Theatre through July 17

# 'Driving Miss Daisy' wonderful

THE INTELLIGENCER

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For The Intelligencer

STIRLING — Let's consider the famous four Ws. For the Stirling Festival Theatre production of "Driving Miss Daisy," which opened this week, they stand for warm, witty, wise and wonderful.

Those are just some of the praiseworthy adjectives one could use for this Pulitzer Prize-winning play and the cast and crew for this Stirling production.

As originally written by Alfred Uhry, it was indeed a stage play, adapted later by the writer to become an Academy Award "best picture."

As a stage play, it is a simply-delightful two hours of entertaining theatre. Commenting on the play's remarkable success, writer Uhry noted it was based on the relationship between his own grandmother and her driver, and added: "I wrote what I knew to be the truth and people have recognized it as such."

Show director Andrew Lamb, adds in his own notes: "Driving Miss Daisy is the story of how two people, who may not have anything in common, can come to depend on each other's support and friendship."

Lamb, who apprenticed at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre, London, England, has established himself as one of the busiest directors in Canada.

He also reflected on the good fortune of finding a working revolving stage, previously used about four years ago for the SFT's production of "Victor, Victoria."

"We found it stored in a barn," he said. Re-assembled, it works perfectly, and while it might add a gimmicky presence to the production, it made Lamb's job much easier in staging the complex changes

between a vehicle and the living room set.

The cast: Jillian Cook, as an experienced Canadian actress, including 12 years with the Shaw Festival, lives and breathes Miss Daisy, skillfully showing her increasing age and frailty as the play moves on.

Alan B. Jones lights up the stage as the faithful driver-companion he comes to be. One of the poignant moments in the play is when he has to admit to Miss Daisy, a retired school teacher, that he cannot read the names on tombstones.

Another seasoned Canadian actor, Mark Terene, has a personal connection to playing Miss Daisy's son: he has a 103-year-old grandmother.

Excellent stagecraft in sound effects, design and production, a powerful cast and an award-winning script all work together as a guaranteed audience treat, suitable for all ages.

"Driving Miss Daisy" runs through July 17 with a mix of 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. matinee performances. Tickets are \$25, \$10 for youths. For tickets or more information, call the SFT Box Office, (613) 395-2100.



*A heart-warming story for the ages*

## Driving Miss Daisy

Written by Alfred Uhry, Directed by Andrew Lamb

Starring  
JILLIAN COOK  
ALAN B. JONES  
MARK TERENE

JULY 7 - 17, 2010

The quarter century between 1948 and 1973 marked a time of profound change in the world, and in Atlanta, Georgia.

Travel with Daisy Werthan and Hoke Coleburn as old attitudes gradually transform and barriers slowly crumble on the road to true friendship.