

‘You Will Remember Me’: This remarkable play gets more remarkable with every scene

I strongly recommend you make every effort to see this play, writes columnist Selena Forsyth

By Northumberland News

Monday, November 14, 2022



Edouard Beauchemin (Tim Russell) is a famous Quebec intellectual in his 60s whose brain has “decided to pull its own plug.”

The early stages of dementia allow him to remember in great detail very important dates in world history and great moments in his life, but he can’t remember what he had for breakfast. He is often unable to remember the names of his loved ones or events that took place the day before.

His wife Madeleine (Kim Brouwer) needs a break so she leaves Edouard with their daughter Isabelle (Anne-Marie Bouthillette) for the weekend. Isabelle is a journalist and has to go on an assignment, so she entrusts her father to her unemployed partner Patrick (Donn Mann), who has a teenage daughter Berenice (Jen Batler).

Meanwhile, Patrick has plans to go off and play poker with his buddies, so he leaves Edouard with his Berenice.

The plot thickens as time goes on. And this remarkable play gets more remarkable with every scene change.

This is principally an intergenerational family story exploring the painful effects of memory loss with sensitivity and wit. The pathos of Edouard's situation is that when he's lucid, we see his brilliance, but we also see him grappling with the awareness that it's all slipping away from him.

As the program says this is "a powerful drama that raises broader questions of the role memory plays in all our lives."

This is a memorable production – Northumberland Players never fails.

They chose to create a black box set so scene changes are tricky and very cleverly done. They make huge demands on not just the sound and lighting crews, but every single person on the production team.

And the five actors are simply amazing. I must make a special mention for Russell – his performance is, quite simply, remarkable.

Huge congrats to director Brenda Worsnop and to producers Marg Hilborn and Laura Garton for this brilliant play. It deserves every award available.

"You Will Remember Me" runs on weekends until Nov. 27 at the Firehall Theatre. Tickets are \$25. It's a small space so masks are required.

I strongly recommend you make every effort to see this play. You will learn a great deal, and despite the subject matter, you will be highly entertained and laugh a lot.

Opening night proceeds were donated to the Alzheimer Society of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton. What a wonderful gesture.

Selena Forsyth is a Port Hope resident and enjoys writing reviews for Northumberland Players.