



Nomadic Theatre Co presents a review of

# THE VIEW FROM HERE

Thursday, May 9, 2002

# The Oregonian

## Romantic foibles of couples bubble in physical comedy

By RICHARD WATTENBERG  
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

Those in search of a late-night theatrical dessert that is both tasty and light need look no further than Nomadic Theatre Company's "The View From Here."

Performed by Michael O'Neill and Heather Pearl, this playful piece of physical theater follows the ups and downs of a couple's relationship, exploring a number of problems that confront twosomes at one time or another.

The initial lack of interest of one for the other, the roving eyes that prompt stubborn jealousy, the inadvertent rejection of some treasured aspect of the other's life and the fear of commitment are all represented in richly varied physical movement.

O'Neill and Pearl demonstrate these familial kinds of misunderstandings and the resulting frustrations with a coating of sugar and spice.

Their view of human foibles comes from a wildly humorous perspective, and the piece ends happily as the performers circle the stage in a tender slow dance.

Perhaps the most amusing scene occurs when the two lovers reveal their inner selves to each other through costume and movement.

While Pearl takes on a glamorous persona, O'Neill suddenly appears wearing only a tutu and proceeds to dance a hilarious ballet with a balloon. A large-bellied fellow, he nevertheless moves with grace and ease. We can't help but feel for him when Pearl literally bursts the balloon that he finally offers her.

Both are able comedians. O'Neill can raise a laugh with an innocent

### THEATER REVIEW

*The View From Here*

**Company:** Nomadic Theatre Company  
**When:** 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, through May 18  
**Where:** Disjecta, 116 N.E. Russell St. (above the Russell Street Theater)  
**Tickets:** \$10, 503-358-3441 or 503-975-6269

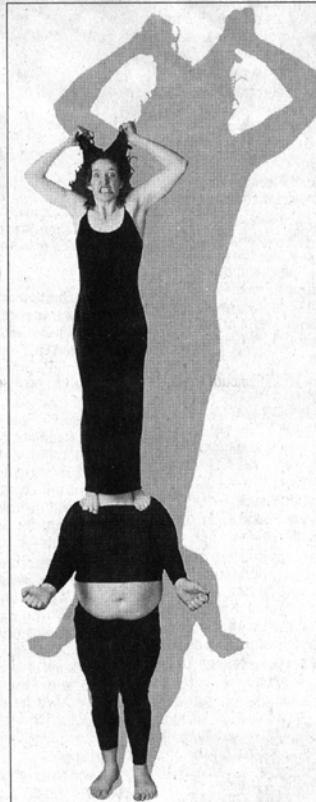
but impish questioning expression, and Pearl's broad, knowing smile radiates open-hearted fun. She, with her taut thin body, and he, with his soft roundness, complement each other wonderfully, suggesting something of a mixed-gender Laurel and Hardy.

Carefully choreographed, O'Neill and Pearl's acrobatic movements are mesmerizing.

In some scenes their skilled physical activity becomes a metaphor for lovemaking. Elsewhere, their expert sense of each other is demonstrated when Pearl does something of a contact dance — twisting and turning over and around O'Neill to convey how she becomes an irritating clinging vine to the hapless fellow.

Although some lighting problems marred the opening night performance, these will surely be resolved and will not disturb "The View From Here" — a view well worth the trip to Disjecta studio to see.

Reach Richard Wattenberg c/o The Oregonian, 1320 S.W. Broadway, Portland, OR 97201.



The physical comedy of Heather Pearl and Michael O'Neill is only part of the show in "The View From Here."

Please see the next page for a transcription.

NEW PERSPECTIVES,  
FUNNY GLASSES



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