

# Anne Frank's hoped-for illusion

Anne Frank (Ava Lalezarzadeh) is seated at an outdoor café in Paris finishing her famous book when The Publisher (Timothy P. Brown) makes her acquaintance. By a voiceover we learn that her sister Margot (Marnina Schon) is in sunny Palestine. This is the opening of the intriguing new play about the iconic young author, **Anne, 'a New Play Rediscovering Anne Frank** by Jessica Durlacher and Leon deWinter, adapted by Nick Blaemire. This hoped-for illusion only makes the dramatic main action of the play that much more poignant as the Frank family and their fellow Jews go into hiding to avoid capture by the Nazis. A scene has been added as we see the family pack their belongings, ready to give up all but the most basic necessities.

Several years pass as the war goes on. Anne blossoms in spite of the harsh circumstances and finds love with Peter van Pels (Kevin Matsumoto) but the adults don't fare as well as the forced incarceration takes its toll on health and spirit.

Theater  
Review  
by  
Patricia  
Foster Rye



Ms. Lalezarzadeh has found the spunkiness in the young Anne and brings poise and understanding to the mature Anne. Rob Brownstein resonates with dignity and empathy in his role as father Otto Frank. Directed by Eve Brandstein, the rest of the cast is excellent. Unfortunately the play is not well served by the limited stage space and lack of a proscenium in its current home. (Appropriate for ages 8 and up.)

*Through Mon., July 22, Museum of Tolerance, 9786 W. Pico Blvd., 310-553-8403, museumoftolerance.com.*

**3 Stars**