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A Splintered Soul

By Wilfred M. Phillips Jr.

The International City Theater (ICT) presents the fifth and final play of their 2018 season.

'A Splintered Soul' is a play about European refugees struggling to make it in America after the Holocaust in Germany and Poland. The play takes place in Rabbi Simon Kroeller's (Stephen Rockwell) apartment in San Francisco in 1947. It's a chilling story of various survivors coming to terms with what they experienced in concentration camps. All the characters detail what they experienced then and what they are currently experiencing in America.

Simon fought in the Jewish resistance and survived the war, but lost his family in Poland. He now hosts a support group for fellow survivors. There is much tension at the Rabbi's home as many who visited him feared reprisals and deportation from others. They include Gerta (Allison Biaize) who works in a wealthy home and Mordechi (Nathan Mohebbi); they both survived sexual slavery in the forced labor camps. Sol (Jon Wienberg) made the metal doors of the gas chambers. There is the mysterious brother and sister, Harold (Brandon Root) and Elisa (Quinn Francis) who comes to Rabbi Kroeller with a tale of continued enslavement in the new world. The group is monitored by a Jewish judge, Martin Levinsky (Louis A. Lotorto). Sol is murdered by the Rabbi on false assumptions he threw his body into San Francisco Bay. The ending takes a stunning and surprising twist.

I give this play three stars for the superb acting of all cast members.

'A Splintered Soul' is a two-act play and is directed by Marya Mazer. Playwright Alan L. Brooks makes his home in Long Beach. This play is currently performing through November 9, 2018 at The International City Theatre in the Beverly O'Neil Theater located at the Long Beach Performing Art Center 330 East Seaside Way.

For show times, ticket information, and reservations, go to www.InternationalCityTheatre.org.

'A Splintered Soul' ends the 2018 performance season at ICT. The 2019 season will open their 34th year starting February 20 to November 4 with five exciting and entertaining performances for your enjoyment. Subscribe to ICT.