

WYES-TV 12

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REVIEW: *W;T*, Southern Rep Theatre
STEPPIN OUT, with repeats on cable

Al Shea
6-21-02

ON AL

Southern Repertory Theatre concludes its troubled season, what with its founder Rosary O'Neill exiting her home and theatre. Still the group ends on an enviable note with Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize Drama - *W;T*. Directed with grace and insight by Bert Pigg, *W;T* finds a brilliant English Professor undergoing chemotherapy as she dies of cancer. Not a bright subject to interest audiences for two hours. But when you have a stellar actress in the leading role *W;T* becomes - magic.

ON PHOTO FULL SCREEN

Ms. Edson's tough script does not enlist your sympathy for the poor dieing patient. Actually Dr. Vivian is often a pain in the neck - questioning and combating a medical staff she is very aware of not being on her intellectual level. The brainy skirmishers are often amusing. One of the city's finest actresses Adriana Bate gives a smooth, composed performance full of icy detail. This being only June - hers would seem to be the performance for other local actresses to beat this year. She is never off the stage as she shifts periods of her life. It is wildly successful. Ms. Bate, like the author, never begs for your tears - which she gets easily.

ON CREDITS

The simple set by Troy McVey is effective, made even more so by Hugh Lester's great lighting designs. The cast excels with Vatican Lokey as a young M.D. Mr. Lokey ought to act more as he is one of our best talents, as is Charlotte Schully as an old friend of VIVIAN. Their final scene is heart-breaking. Adorable Amy Alvarez continues to impress as a sweetly hearted nurse.

ON AL

I can see how *W;T* won all sorts of awards. There doesn't seem to be one scene you could call "fluff", instead it is a theatrical document to the human spirit. But oh. is it ever grim. Get a good grip on your self and enjoy the marvelous Adriana Bate at the peak of her acting powers. *W;T* is at SOUTHERN REPERTORY THEATRE, Canal Place weeks-ends.

Top Rating - 4
- 4

Television With a Vision
of What Television Can Be