

Girl Friday Productions'

An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf

By Michael Hollinger

Our July 2005 inaugural production was warmly received by audiences and critics alike!

July 2005 from Renee Valois special to the PioneerPress:

“A bare white plate on a small table in the corner of the elevator greets you as you head up to *An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf*. Such concern for detail makes Girl Friday Productions’ first full-scale stage presentation a gourmet serving in the Twin Cities’ rich repast of small theater.”

“The quirky script by Michael Hollinger mixes comedy, tragedy, suspense and romance (practically every genre gets a nod) amid a plethora of laughs and poignant moments.”

“Director Natalie Diem does a terrific job of making the show compelling in spite of the single set and one long act. She keeps things moving with strong physical comedy and riveting action. Diem gets help from Steve Kath’s smart set, with its many doors and windows facilitating interaction.”

“People with an appetite for dark humor will find much to satisfy them in *An Empty Plate*. Given the quality of this first show, I may even say ‘TGIF’ when Girl Friday’s next production rolls around.”

July 2005 from Quinton Skinner at City Pages

“tight, witty and well-crafted”

“Malos anchors the show with his powerful bearing, low and melodious voice, and flashes of pained humor that poke through Victor’s despair. It’s one of several spot-on performances from director Natalie Diem’s cast.”

July 2005 from Graydon Royce at the StarTribune

“funny, lyrical and poignant”

“I can recall fewer than a handful of times when the tiny Cedar Riverside People’s Center has looked so much like a real theater. Steve Kath’s dining-room set is elegant, with real swinging doors, a window into the kitchen and fresh peach-colored paint.”

“Malos focuses on Victor’s longing and pain, all the while retaining an appetite for telling his life story with a confident, rich voice. Kernan pulls off the trick of a treating a showy role – a stuttering busboy – with utter sincerity.”

“This is a fine first step for Girl Friday Productions, and we look forward to their next course.”