

subtlenuance presents a new Australian play about French philosopher Simone Weil.

Life is Impossible

by Paul Gilchrist

Newtown Theatre,
Cnr King & Bray St, Newtown.
September 29 – October 16, 2010
Tuesday to Saturday 8pm
Tix: \$28 / \$22, Cheap Tuesdays \$15
Bookings: 85073034 or www.newtowntheatre.com.au



1942
New York
A new world awaits

Based on the true story of one of the most controversial women of the twentieth century.

Simone Weil, French philosopher, factory worker, mystic, political activist, and utopian pessimist, was in 1942 a Jewish refugee from the European war in New York and her reputation as a socialist and heretic had followed her to the new world.

“Revolution is the opium of the people” and “Imagination fills the void.” It was this heretical attitude to the imagination that made her both a saint and the ultimate outsider with the courage to ask the prickly questions, the difficult questions. In Gide’s words she was ‘the patron saint of all outsiders’.

Albert Camus, who famously stopped to meditate at Weil’s family house on his way to accepting the Nobel Prize in 1957, said that “Western social and political thought has not produced anything more penetrating, more prophetic since Marx.”

Weil claimed that ‘the future is made of the same stuff as the present.’ So by imagining a better world are we actually preventing it from happening? And if this is the case where is the place for hope? And what is imagination? How do we live our lives so that the real and the good are not simply a figment of our imaginations.

In this new Australian play it is 1942.

The world is at war.

But Elaine is in New York for the first time.

She’s in love with the skyline, the fashion, the musicals, and Tom.

The conflict seems so far away – until she meets Simone, a French Jewish refugee with a terrible secret.

A tale of passion, betrayal and intrigue, *Life is Impossible* is the latest work from critically acclaimed writer Paul Gilchrist, and a return to the style of *subtlenuance*’s 2009 underground hit *Catherine at Avignon*:

“...like Stoppard, Gilchrist is great with language... a significant achievement in writing, direction and stagingobviously a playwright worth watching,” **MediaCulture**

“poetic and whimsical and at times wickedly funny... the script is the real star.” **Alt Media**

“Amidst the sin and the sarcasm are startling moments of poetry....what *Catherine at Avignon* does is akin to soaring.” **The Brag**

Life is Impossible

Written and directed by Paul Gilchrist
Produced by Daniela Giorgi

With Lucas Connolly, Heidi Lupprian,
Brett Neville & Jo Richards

For more information contact: Daniela Giorgi on
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