



Lynne Rosenberg as "Nan"
Credits: Emily Fishbaine

“The Tenant” is living on five floors at West-Park Presbyterian Church

The latest in off-Broadway theatre seems to be the resurgence of what began years ago as “Tamara” at the Park Avenue Armory - *interactive theatrical experience*. Performance art is certainly a successful and popular art form with the current “Sleep No More” at the McKittrick Hotel in Chelsea and a similarity in the voyeuristic “Hotel/Motel” at the Gershwin Hotel. So why not a clever adaptation of Roman Polanski’s 1976 psychological thriller movie “The Tenant,” based on the novella by Roland Topor? It’s housed in the old West-Park Presbyterian Church.

The creative Woodshed Collective is producing this **free** theatrical event (yes, I said “free”) under the direction of Teddy Berman and Stephen Brackett. It encompasses everything necessary to heighten the senses and is the story of the descent into delirium of Monsieur Trelkovsky (Michael Crane) who shows up in the hospital room of a dying girl, being tended to by the Concierge of a Paris tenement building. The girl, all bandaged, apparently committed suicide by jumping through a glass window and attempts to say something, but screams and dies. Trelkovsky wants to rent the room she’s just vacated and there’s some funny material surrounding this opening scene. Then it’s get up and go time.

The remainder of the 2+ hours are spent pursuing the actors who reside in and move throughout wonderfully designed rooms, within the sanctuary for the funeral service, in the Parish house, in bedrooms, dining rooms, apartments, a garden, bar-room, kitchens and other (Gabriel Hainer Evansohn, designer) housed in the dingy, murky old Church (watch out for fallen pieces of plaster from old crumbling ceilings) in order to follow the story along to its conclusion. The various tenement residents are vibrant in the portrayal of eight stories of love, lust, passion, hate, terror, fear and delusions all centering on Trelkovsky’s downward spiral when accusatory neighbors invade, creating the ultimate crisis and questioning who we are as humans.

The Collective has staged and installed the scenic settings over five floors in the old Church for its 23 member cast. The sets, costumes, lights, video design are all fabulously conceived. The original script is written by Bekah Brunstetter, Sarah Burgess, Paul Cohen, Dylan Dawson, Steven Levenson and Tommy Smith; each responsible for writing storylines about the individual dwellers within the Paris tenement. Eerie music is by Duncan Sheik and David van Tieghem.

Look for a masterful performance by Lynne Rosenberg as Nan in the role of the Concierge, as well as Judith Greentree (Maman) and her Crippled Daughter, Jocelyn Kuritsky, together with an otherwise extremely talented cast. Follow different characters to derive the most out of the evening.

There’s a bar in the basement where drinks are available before, during and after performance. It’s a bit musty below! Just don’t wear your good clothes to the event.

The Tenant performs through September 17th at the Church on Amsterdam Ave. & 76th Street, NYC

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