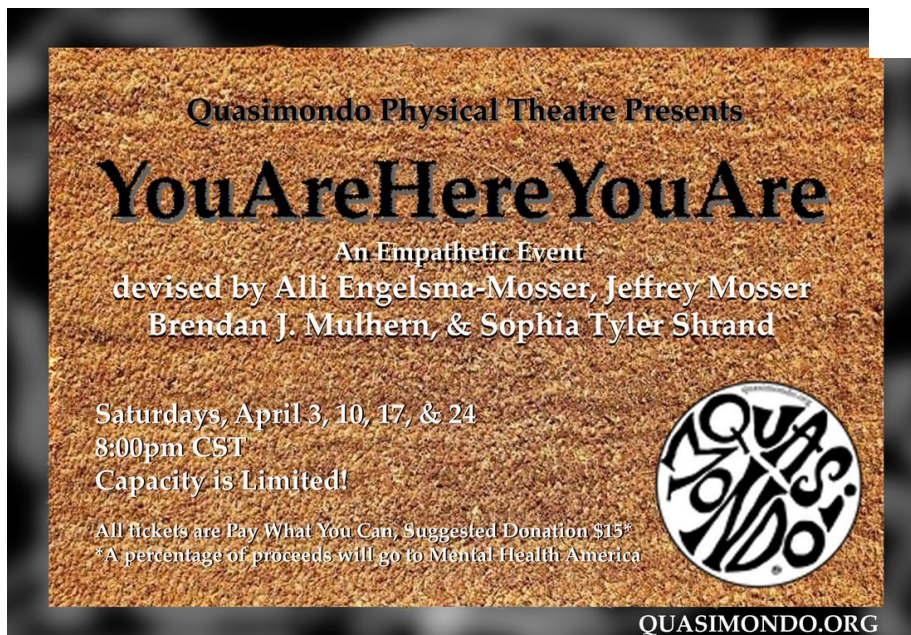BEST OF MKE   NEWS   FOOD & DRINK   MUSIC   SUMMERFEST   CANNABIS

CULTURE   FILM   HEAR ME OUT   LIFESTYLE   SPORTS   EVENTS   PUZZLES

PODCASTS   STORE   SUPPORT THE SHEPHERD   ADVERTISING INFO

Shepherd
Est 1982 EXPRESS

SMART
INFORMED
OPINIONATED

Home / Culture / Theater /

Quasimondo's Latest is Fresh, Fun and Physically Apart

BY HARRY CHERKINIAN   APR. 07, 2021   12:50 P.M.

Facebook   Twitter   Reddit   Email   LinkedIn

More

RSS   PRINT

IMAGE VIA QUASIMONDO

favorite YouTube video and sharing it onscreen.

This is the "party" we've been invited to, courtesy of Quasimodo theater ensemble. *YouAreHereYouAre* is appropriately entitled "An Empathetic Event." And we all deserve that, trying to create and maintain creativity and connection during this Age of Pandemic. The 90-minute interactive piece (intermission at the discretion of the viewer) was created by Alli Engelsma-Mosser, Jeffrey Mosser (who also directs), Brendan J. Mulhern, and Sophia Tyler Shrand. It's presented as a "virtual, interactive theatrical experience" but is more of an intimate evening among soon-to-be friends sharing, laughing, playing games but ultimately trying to connect while we are physically apart. It's fresh, it's fun, and by the end, a group of virtual strangers knows one another better. At least in the moment.

For the uninitiated, this is "theater for another time, another place" Which is right now. Stream of consciousness, personal, intimate. Call it "virtual voyeurism," if you like. But there's something fresh and exciting in anticipating what might happen.

Brendan J. Mulhern's interactive piece highlighted this type of theater that makes Quasimondo's work so unexpected but satisfying. Telling a story about someone's scarf, a basket full of Easter eggs, or a colorful piece of glass was as humorous as it was insightful. And yet, each of the five actors find ways to weave in serious points to consider.

and entertainment and events delivered right to your
inbox every weekday, plus a bonus Week in Review
email on Saturdays.

SIGN UP

"What is about making new friends when you're
older?" Bullseye. We all can relate to that in some way.
Mulhern gets us looking introspectively as we begin the
"party games." It's vulnerable even though it's virtual, but
even Alexander Quinones' real-time piece on choosing and
ordering a pizza goes beneath the surface (er, crust at
least) as he explores what it's like to have "strangers"
choose for us—and then live with consequences. In this
case, some unexpected topping choices expands his
boundaries, at least of taste, if not beyond.

Theater has always been such a live, collective experience.
But when it's relegated to a computer screen, even Gallery
View is not the same. Bu, Quasimondo shows us that we
can find a way through this time and actually see ourselves
reflected in others—beyond that screen.

We're always looking for ourselves in others, to validate
ourselves through others," says actor Quinones bring us
back full circle at show's end. *YouAreHereYouAre* reminds
us that in this Age of Pandemic, staring back at the screen
and interacting virtually lets us keep the "party"
going. Alone. But together.

RELATED TO

Theater   YouAreHereYouAre   Sophia Tyler Shrand

Brendan J. Mulhern   Quasimondo   Alli Engelsma-Mosser

Jeffrey Mosser   An Empathetic Event

Harry Cherkinian

Harry Cherkinian is an award-winning writer and reviewer in the arts and entertainment field, specializing in music and theater.

Read more by Harry Cherkinian

APR. 07, 2021   12:50 P.M.

Facebook   Twitter   Reddit   Email   LinkedIn

More

RSS   PRINT

RELATED