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Bug

The Flat Earth Theatre Company

Review by: John Joseph Fahey

The Flat Earth Theatre Company celebrated its 15th anniversary with its production of *Bug* written by Tracy Letts. *Bug* was performed from July 29th until August 6th. The venue was The Factory Theatre located on Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

The title is intriguing and its premise quite engaging, especially if one likes psychological thrillers. One can also argue that it could even fall under the category of political thriller as one of its two main characters, Gulf War veteran Peter Evans, quite convincingly played by James Hayward, suffers severe neurosis due to his involvement in a hapless military experiment. This ill fated experience renders Evans completely obsessed with trying to liberate himself from what Evans was convinced is bodily infestation with, well, what the title of the play indicates – bugs.

Hayward's acting is complimented by Agnes, a lonely woman dealing with her own mental torments, played by the equally talented Julie Becker; her intensity provides a strong dynamic between the two characters, as well as with the supporting cast. Steven DeMarco plays Agnes' ex, Jerry Goss, and is quite convincing as an Oklahoma redneck whose desire is to reinvigorate an already deteriorated relationship and Tim Fairley plays the sympathetic doctor Dr. Sweet. Emily Hecht plays R.C., the character who was responsible in introducing Agnes and Peter.

Bug makes strong commentary on covert government actions; with political espionage, former governmental experiments gone awry and other uncertainties performed at top levels, one might not discount the plausible assertion that the play puts forth. So, as well as appealing theater, *Bugs* is quite thought provoking.

The Flat Earth Theatre began in 2006 and produces works that cover a broad range of genres. Leigh Downes produced with Amy Lehrmitt as Stage Manager and Adam Teti serving as Technical Director.