



Paula Citron on the Arts



One Little Goat Theatre — *Ritter, Dene, Voss* Monday, November 27, 2006

One Little Goat Theatre under director Adam Seelig puts on plays of contemporary poetic theatre. For his latest production, Seelig has chosen *Ritter, Dene, Voss*, by the late Austrian playwright Thomas Bernhard. The rich language and cascade of themes makes this play a dizzying and stimulating experience. If you like your theatre with substance, if you like to talk about a play for hours after, this is for you.

Bernhard represents the Austro-German avant-garde theatre of rant and cruelty, with huge dollops of satiric humour thrown in for good measure. His three character play is about the children of a rich industrialist. The two actress sisters are welcoming home their genius brother from a mental institution. The three manipulate and terrorize in a metaphoric play whose wider theme is the relationship between art and society.

Shannon Perreault and Maev Beaty are wonderful as the sisters, but Greg Thomas as Ludwig gives the performance of a lifetime.

Ritter, Dene, Voss continues at Alchemy Theatre until Dec. 3.