

HuffPost Arts' Haiku Reviews are regular features where we invite critics to review exhibitions and performances in short form. Some will be in the traditional Haiku form of 5x7x5 syllables, others might be a sonnet or even a string of words.



January 31, 2012

By George Heymont

MY HAIKU REVIEW: Although **David Pichette** and **R. Hamilton Wright** have created a new adaptation of **James M. Cain's** popular 1943 crime novel, *Double Indemnity*, it seems to have suffered the same fate as last year's musicalization of *Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City*. A story that worked brilliantly in print as well as on film feels clumsy and uncomfortable in its attempt to make a successful transition to the stage. Casting is strong, with **John Bogar** as a very masculine Walter Huff, **Carrie Paff** as the sultry, scheming Phyllis Nirlinger, and **Jessica Martin** as Phyllis's stepdaughter, Lola. The ever-versatile **Mark Anderson Phillips** steals the show as Jackson (the man who almost ruins the murder coverup), Norton (the head of the insurance company), and Nino (Lola's smarmy boyfriend who starts shacking up with her stepmother).

NAME OF ARTIST/PERFORMER: San Jose Repertory Theatre

NAME OF SHOW: *Double Indemnity*

DATES OF SHOW: Through February 5

GALLERY/VENUE WEBSITE: <http://www.sjrep.com/plays/1112/indemnity/index.php>

PHOTO CAPTION: Carrie Paff and John Bogar in *Double Indemnity*. Photo by: Chris Bennion