



IN ITS REGIONAL PREMIER
"SACRED ORDER"
RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION

By: Iride Aparicio
Photos by: Kevin Berne



From L to R Robert Krakovski as Robert Brock, James Wagner as William Shumway and Julian Lopez-Morillas as Saul Roth in SACRED ORDER

SAN JOSE, California – When Clinical Psychologist Bob Clyman wrote his drama, *Sacred Order*, that in a Regional Premiere is being presented at San José REP, in San José, from October 14th until November 7, the playwright did not only wrote a “biological thriller,” as it is called, but a well-structured drama about a subject we all are familiar with: CANCER.

While dying from CANCER has been the subject of other popular works, one of them the movie *Love Story*, the CANCER’s research done in secret in the laboratories, has seldom been discussed to the public. One of the reasons may be that talking about abnormal cells dividing out of control rather than dying after a normal lifecycle, damaged DNA, tumors replacing normal tissue or cancerous cells traveling through the bloodstream of lymph vessels, are not subjects the average person wants to talk about. But these are the subjects that are discussed in the drama SACRED ORDER.

The protagonist in the play is Dr. William Shumway (James Wagner) a young biologist from Minnesota who believes that “the most amazing community” is the human body. Dr. Shumway has been experimenting with cancerous cells for a while and in his last experiment even managed to stop the cancerous cells for reproducing by shrinking them. This convinced him that he has discovered a cure for the disease.

When his scientific paper (his notes) is read by Dr. Robert Brock (Robert Krakovski), the chief administrator at a cancer research institute in N. Y., Dr. Brock, who will stop at nothing in his pursuit to find a cure for the disease, hires him, gives him a private lab in his institution and rushes him to publish his research by convincing him that his discovery is of such importance that Norway may even grant him the Nobel prize. All the attention given to the “young Doctor.” plus the fact that he has been displaced not only from his lab but from his office because of his age (63), causes a lot of jealousy in Dr. Saul Roth (Julian López-Morillas) who decides to investigate by himself more carefully, Dr. Shumway’s research.

In the process, the young doctor is caught in a web of science’s politics. To complicate matters, his young assistant, Alice Curiton (Kathryn Tkel) had discovered that while it is true that the cancerous cells stopped reproducing, at the beginning, after a while, they began reproducing again indicating that Shumway’s “discovery” may be a failure. In the other side, Dr. Brock, who is convinced that the research is the cure for cancer he had been waiting for all these years, is putting pressure on Shumway to finish his research and allow the world know his discovery.



L to R Kathryn Tkel and James Wagner in SACRED ORDER

For those people unfamiliar with medical terminology, the conversations between Brock and Roth, Shumway and Brock, and even between Shumway and Alice may be hard to follow because the scientific dialogue in the play is “realistic.” Realistically presented in the drama are also the politics in the science’s world and the complete devoid of the noble “truth seeking of science.” The acting of the four actors in the play is superb

Billed as a “biomedical thriller” the play is in reality an “ethical drama” because what is at stake throughout the play are the ethics of the researcher vrs. The corporate greed created by the race to be the first one to cure cancer.