
End Times by Allison Moore

Kitchen Dog Theater

2007

Director: Tina Parker

Set Design: Clare Floyd DeVries

Sound Design: Emily Young

Lighting Design: Laura McMeley

Costume Design: Christina Vela

**“End Times”
Kitchen Dog Theater**

In the spring of 2007, Dallas’ Kitchen Dog Theater produced the world premiere of the dust bowl drama, *End Times*. The play was written by two time Playwright Center Jerome Fellow and McKnight Advancement Grant Recipient Allison Moore.

Production Photos

End Times

Photographer: Linda Blase

In photos:

Sally Vahle

Clara Peretz

Lee Trull

Barry Nash



'End Times' just beginning

THEATER REVIEW: Kitchen Dog Theater brings Dust Bowl production to life
11:52 AM CDT on Monday, June 11, 2007

By **LAWSON TAITTE** / Theater Critic

At the beginning – and again at the end – of *End Times*, Sally Nystuen-Vahle sits on a porch at the apron of the acting area. You'd swear that the famous Dorothea Lange photograph of a hard-bitten Appalachian woman during Depression times has come to life...

The entire cast is wonderful, but Ms. Nystuen-Vahle once again demonstrates that she is almost unmatched among Dallas actors. That beautiful, bony face of hers has always evoked something of a pioneer woman, and Ms. Nystuen-Vahle has frequently played strong, stubborn yet somehow meek characters. This one, however – like its predecessors – is an entirely individual and unique creation. From that opening vignette, every twitch of a muscle, every inflection – even the way the performer's shoulders sit in the flour-sack dress designer Christina Vela has created for her – evokes a whole world, an entire psychology.

View original review at:

http://www.guidelive.com/sharedcontent/dws/ent/performingarts/stories/DN-end_09gl.ART.State.Edition2.436b1b4.html

Dallas Observer End Times review

End Times stirs memories of the Dust Bowl

By Elaine Liner

Published: June 21, 2007

The wind doesn't howl in *End Times*, the new Allison Moore drama getting its world premiere at Kitchen Dog Theater. It roars like a beast...

Not since Kitchen Dog's superb staging of Sam Shepard's disturbing *Buried Child* has a play at this theater blended technical design and performance so seamlessly.

Such acting. Nystuen-Vahle gives Janie a quiet dignity and persistent sadness that change only briefly when Gilbert proposes with a blurted-out "Marry me!" This actress carries the weight of the play, and she is a marvel. Cherry Jones good (if you're a Broadway aficionado). Meryl Streep good (if you're not)....

End Times ends the current season for Kitchen Dog. See this one if you can. It will blow you away.

View original review at: <http://www.dallasobserver.com/2007-06-21/culture/tale-o-the-pup/>

End Times review: Pegasus News Online

Pegasus News

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Theater Review: *End Times*

BY SHAWN PARIKH

The show is intense, whether it is the sound effects creating the dust storm, the plot, or the connection between the actors, and it definitely does hold your attention. **The primary reason for this is actress Sally Nystuen-Vahle who plays Janie with so much depth, that the first second she appeared on stage, I felt I knew everything about her. From her subtlety to her fervent praying, she created realistic qualities for her complex character and never faltered for one moment..... Some great moments also occur between Janie and her neighbor, Gilbert, played by Barry Nash. Their chemistry gave the play another level because of the authenticity of their line readings. Some of the best scenes were when it was just the two of them on stage.**

I had never seen her before, but apparently, this is her first time back to Kitchen Dog after a hiatus of 12 years. I am really looking forward to see what she does next.

'End Times' leads nods for critics' awards

THEATER: Awards honor 37 shows, 20 groups

11:10 AM CDT on Thursday, September 20, 2007

By **LAWSON TAITTE** / Theater Critic

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Matt Mrozek

Left to right: Clara Peretz (Fern), Lee Trull (Brandon), Sally Nystuen-Vahle (Janie) and Barry Nash (Gilbert) in Kitchen Dog Theater's *End Times*.

The Dallas Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum cast a wide net for its 2007 Forum Awards – honoring individual contributions to 37 shows presented by 20 area theater companies.

The play that garnered the most mentions was Kitchen Dog Theater's world premiere drama about the Dust Bowl, *End Times*. Playwright Allison Moore, director Tina Parker, star Sally Nystuen-Vahle and four members of the design team were all on the list. Ms. Parker also won as an actress – for playing a child in Kitchen Dog's *Mr. Marmalade*.

Remarkably, actor Jeff Swearingen won for two productions and didn't utter a word in either. Both shows were among the most lauded of the season –

Uptown Players leads Leon Rabin Award nominees

12:10 PM CDT on Wednesday, October 3, 2007

By Elaine Limer / Theater Critic

...Kitchen Dog Theater's world premiere of Allison Moore's *End Times* whizzed by the crowd with 10 nominations in drama categories.

2007 Leon Rabin Award nominees

Actress In a play: Christina Vela, *Fat Pig*, Kitchen Dog Theater; Emily Gray, *Every Trick In The Book*, Classical Acting Company; Kristina Baker, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?*, WaterTower Theatre; Patty Breckenridge, *Valley Of The Dolls*, Uptown Players; **Sally Nystuen Vable, *End Times*, Kitchen Dog Theater;** Sandra Looney, *Women and Horses and a Shot Straight from the Bottle*, Echo Theatre

Awards related press

Year in Review 2007: Theater

THEATER: Sterling productions crowded local stages

06:59 PM CST on Wednesday, December 19, 2007

By LAWSON TAITTE / The Dallas Morning News

It was a very good year for Dallas theater lovers.

Lots of our established theater artists reached new levels in production and performance. This top 10 list could easily have stretched out to 25. Even looking past the truly exciting work, you could take comfort in many more solid renditions of classic plays and musicals.

The theater community seems euphoric, as well, with the arrival of Kevin Moriarty as the artistic director of the Dallas Theater Center. His enthusiasm is contagious and he has reached out to many other theatrical groups as well as supporters and the general public. It remains to be seen what the guy can do artistically – he won't direct a Dallas show till next season.

There were some less happy developments, most notably the folding of Classical Acting Company. But in general, the scene seems stable and a lot of directors, designers and actors keep turning out top-quality work.

8 *End Times* by Kitchen Dog Theater – We're seeing lots of original work on area stages, some by out-of-state writers like Allison Moore. The play itself fell apart at the end, but Tina Parker's direction, the fabulous designs and a remarkable cast led by Sally Nystuen-Vahle made this one of the year's biggest events.

Awards related press

Awards related Blog entry from Dallas Morning News Theatre Critic Lawson Taitte

Re: The 2007 Leon Awards and other things.

November 13, 2007

What age Eliza?

Seeing Sally Nystuen Vahle at the Rabin Awards last night reminded me of what I wrote in my review of Theatre Three's current *Pygmalion*. I enjoyed Danielle Pickard's youthful take on Eliza Doolittle but speculated that perhaps Shaw knew what he was doing in writing the part for a great, more mature actress. Sally played that actress, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, in a downstairs Theatre Three show about Shaw, *Dear Liar*, a couple of seasons back. My memory of Julie Harris TV Hallmark Hall of Fame Eliza back in 1963 has always been strong. Sally, I'd wager, would be equally great in the part. (For the record, Julie Harris was 37 at that time; Mrs. Patrick Campbell was in her early 40s when she created the part, I think.)

By the way, the show that Sally Vahle starred in this season, Kitchen Dog's *End Times*, walked off with the most Rabins last night, but she didn't get one. I have no quarrel with giving a prize to the two recipients who tied for the Rabin; I thought Kristina Baker should have received a Theater Critics Forum award for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, as did her WaterTower Theatre co-star, James Crawford; but I got voted down in her case. Christina Vela was a powerhouse in Kitchen Dog's *Fat Pig* -- though I thought she was all wrong for the role. But Sally and the other actors, not to speak of the great designers, really made *End Times*. It was a good new play with a weak ending -- in a magnificent production.