

Dan's Papers



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ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

review: cote d'azure triangle

The Cote D'Azure Triangle by Harry Kondoleon. Directed by Gaby Rodgers. At Oddfellow's Hall, Newtown Lane in East Hampton. Performances start at 8 p.m. and run through August 2.

Theatre lovers on the East End this season have a rich smorgasbord of opportunities. An hors d'oeuvre worth noting is the *Cote D'Azure Triangle*, smoothly professional in its directing and acting (and lasting less than 3/4 of an hour).

Multi-talented Maria Pessino, the creative force behind Oddfellows Playhouse, who plays the wife in a *menage a trois* that includes her husband and his male lover, is credited also as the set designer. The set is clever, a horizontal stretch of gold-framed blue that connotes sky, and a fabric-swathed sand-coated floor that becomes beach.

The three attractive performers, Ms. Pessino, Tom Nigh and Scott Ryder, are clothed in basic black bathing attire. The time is 1979, we are told, although that is not particularly meaningful. The South of France beach could be that of any watering place where "Oddfellows" turn up. The mood is anomie, that curious state of non-feeling that can prompt people to do the unconventional out of boredom, curiosity or just plain what-the-hell.

Director Gaby Rodgers notes that "I decided to direct Kondoleon's work because his plays are



talented and idiosyncratic. Kondoleon sees all relationships slightly askew. The underpinnings of the work are dark; the dialogue is witty and breezy."

That about sizes it up. These are not likeable people, although they are attractive and sophisticated. They touch each other constantly, as if in attempt towards arousal. But underlying their relationships is narcissism. The attempt is to find a mirror image rather than a partner. Charming, vacuous, empty, these are that unhappy breed destined, as Oscar Wilde put it, to know "the cost of everything and the value of nothing."

—Elaine Benson