

Community Theater for the Community

JENNIFER CALDWELL / 12 MAY 2016



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DEALS & DISCOUNTS--I don't get out to the theater much; but, when I do, of course I hope it will be a treat. I'll tell you what; you really couldn't do better than to grab your last chance this weekend to take in the wistful-sweet "Sábado Mornings" at the Studio/Stage theater on Western Avenue in Hollywood. I heard about the play from a special invitation from director Melvin Ishmael Johnson and House Manager Earlean Anthony back in April when the show was in previews.

Melvin is a tireless creative powerhouse. He hosts the Quamran Report, which aired for over two hundred segments at Skid Row Studios in downtown Los Angeles. Skid Row is a community radio station that features stories affecting our diverse communities and especially in downtown. It encourages community participation in producing news, politics and culture. Their motto is "Where Anyone Can Do Radio." [Tune in now](#) to check out a discussion on the state of community theater on the last segment of the Quamran Report at Skid Row. It features one of the actors from "Sábado Mornings." Meanwhile, I'll keep everyone posted on what's happening at Skid Row as well as where the Quamran Report is headed next.

Melvin is also a playwright, a community activist and the founder of Veterans Community Theater Workshop. I'd been wanting to see Melvin's work for a few years now. On Sunday, about an hour prior to curtain, I was working on my one woman show when I got a call from a writer/director friend reminding me about the performance. It was a lickity split decision. I said to myself, "Damn! The time is now!" Out the door I went.

Eddie and Rosa played beautifully by Jonaton Wyne and Judith E. Ex LAPD cop Eddie is dealing with his demons when he meets Mexican-American immigrant Rosa, the shy but strong waitress who has some secrets of her own. I really don't want to say too much about the show because it unfolds so beautifully and anyway I'm not a theater critic. Let's just say, SEE IT!

There's plenty of fun to be had both before and after the play with the friendly folks running the show. Prior to the taking our seats, we had a nice glass of red wine...

ORGANIC AND FROM FRANCE, I MIGHT ADD...

... a nice touch, not to mention the delicious tamales on offer at the end of the show.

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ONE TAMALE, TWO TAMALE...

There were one tamale and two tamale plates, with rice and beans. The one tamale plate was just six bucks and plenty for me – mighty tasty too, as was the stream of jokes from an actor named Isaac who was in attendance.

If you're lucky, Isaac will be there again, passing out jokes in abundance. But you won't need any luck to catch the memorable performances of Judith and Jonaton in "Sábado Mornings" and to chat with the creative duo Melvin Johnson and Earlean Anthony. Enjoy!

NEED TO KNOW:

Studio/Stage Theater

520 N. Western Ave.

between Clinton St. and Maplewood Ave.

For more information: 213-908-5032

Tickets are \$24 General Admission; \$15 for Seniors/Students/Military

Friday, May 13 – 8 pm

Saturday, May 14, 8 pm

Sunday, May 15, 5 pm

(Jennifer Caldwell is an actress and an active member of SAG-AFTRA, serving on several committees. She is a published author of short stories and news articles and is a featured contributor to CityWatch. Her column at www.RecessionCafe.wordpress.com is dishing up good deals, recipes and food for thought. Jennifer can be reached at recessioncafe@yahoo.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jennifercald> - Twitter: @checkingthegate)