

Nummer: 2009-04-27



The Expectant hour. Johan Örjefelt and Kristina Brändén Whitaker play the Swedish couple in The Gothenburg English Speaking Theatres play about two parallel pregnancies and family crises **Photo: Lina Ikse Bergman**

In Waiting for baby,

Expectations by Kristina Brändén Whitaker

Stage: The Gothenburg English Speaking Theatre, Teater Trixter

Place: Göteborg

Direction: Gary Whitaker

Light: Otto Olsson Båth, My Persson

Cast: Medverkande: Sally Walsh, Nick Mason, Kristina Brändén Whitaker, Johan Örjefelt

Set design and costume: Ger Olde Monnikhof

Sound and music: Ricardo Sousa

Website: www.gest.se



REVIEW/THEATRE. Two couples, two children, two relationship crises. With The Gothenburg English Speaking Theatre's fourth play 'Expectations', Kristina Brändén Whitaker, the theatre's Artistic Director, makes her debut as a playwright.

Kristina Brändén Whitaker's new play is about two much longed for children. One child is born in London and when it's brought into the world they find out that the child has a rare disorder. At the same time we are introduced to a couple in Sweden that find out that the child they're expecting will not be like other children. This child is not born. Feelings of guilt, pressuring secrets and wears and tears in the couples relationships are rolled up parallel, like each other's mirrors. Do the relationships have a chance to survive?

The subject matter is heavy but there's a lot of humor as well. Grotesque, black humor that is relieving. The English couple is played by **Sally Walsh** and **Nick Mason** (directly brought over from England), whilst **Kristina Brändén Whitaker** and **Johan Örjefelt** play the Swedish couple. Their relationship history is partly presented in Swedish. It's interesting in the same play, to experience the contrast between English and Swedish trained actors in excellent character portrayals.

The tempo is high and you have to really be on the ball to keep with it, in the almost Shakespearian weave of lines. The director Gary Whitaker works skillfully with the parallel stories: the series of events accumulate like layers on top of each other and in the end explode in the resolution.

The Gothenburg English Speaking Theatre has taken it as their duty to play contemporary theatre in English. The aim is not just to play high quality theatre but also to follow up the performances with after show discussions and workshops in the English language. This ambition is also worth a round of applause.

Iva Åberg