

Chicago Defender

Entertainment

'Vivisections From The Blown Mind' ends at Goodman Studio Series

by Earl Calloway

Alonzo D. Lamont Jr.'s "Vivisections From The Blown Mind" climaxes the current Goodman Studio Series and continues through May 7 with Chuck Smith steering the fierce action that erupts like a fuming volcano.

Because of Smith's perceptive imagination, the course of "Vivisections From The Blown Mind" is determined. He utilizes to the utmost a tremendous, talented cast, consisting of Darryl Alan Reed in the principal role of Castro; Michelle Elise Duffy as Angelique; Daniel J. Bryant as Dusty and Cedric Young as Goliath Ardsberry.

Reed is phenomenal in his role as one who has drunk fully from the wine of life's wicked vicissitudes and is found wanting in his sense of direction. In fact he's truly wasted, so mind-blown and warped that his being is like a dirty dish rag that has been used, wrung out, shaken and twisted by his lady Angelique.

"Vivisections From The Blown Mind" is masterpiece of literary genius with its dialogue raging and swirling in the social and artistic life of Castro in particular. It flames with sizzling passion as his inner being is consumed until his character almost vanishes into oblivion with the vicious, carnivorous guidance of Angelique, who molds him into fierce superstar rap entertainer and ultimately a matinee idol.

"Vivisections From The Blown Mind" is in essence avant garde Shakespeare in an ethnic motif. Its iambic pentameter (rhythm) flows lyrically in abrasive language, contrasted at times with honey-sweet expressions.

The characters that Smith directs are similar to contemporary modern music that clashes with dissonant brutality, interspersed with wry humor between consonant vibrating sensuous harmony.

It's a romping, retrospective leap into the life of Castro, projecting his varied and confused personalities, brought to theatrical reality by Smith.

He guides the theatrical masterpiece with a questing, dramatic urgency utilizing mysteriously shocking suspenseful sequences.

Yes, the actors articulate the often disgusting dialogue in



While lounging in Castro's spa, Angelique (Michelle Elise Duffy) reprimands Castro (Darryl Alan Reed) for ruining his press conference in this scene from the Goodman Studio Theatre's production of Alonzo D. Lamont Jr.'s "Vivisections from the Blown Mind." Staged by Chuck Smith, the production continues through May 7 at Goodman Theatre, 200 S. Columbus Dr.

amazing vocal dexterity, all meshed in raw, bitter jargon. The action and speech are ingeniously gross. Castro is severely cloaked in a mass of plasticism that overwhelms him, but he survives, returning eventually back to his homeboy, Eric Johnson.

That happens because the journalist, Goliath Ardsberry, knifes him. He really knifes him, piercing Castro smack in the guts with historical accolades of African American legendary characters. The plasticism is snatched from his vision, consuming Castro.