

“Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me” Reviews

Chicago Tribune

[T]he games played by these three hostages in Beirut — an American doctor, an Irish journalist and a British literature professor — are designed solely to preserve their sanity and humanity. They imagine movie scenarios, "write" letters home aloud that will never be sent, and re-enact great sporting events. And in the case of the Brit and the Irishman, they also confront the hundreds of years of sectarian animosity underpinning "the Troubles" in Belfast.

Kevin Theis' Edward, the loquacious Irish journo, has spent his life running away from his family back home, only to find that he misses them desperately. And Chris Rickett's Adam, keeps reliving memories of a childhood during which he felt abandoned by his parents in favor of the host of foster children they raised.

Belinda Bremner's sensitive staging for Oak Park Festival Theatre mutes histrionics in favor of offhand observations and bruising asides — the latter the specialty of Theis' Edward. There are moments of genuine anguish woven throughout the two acts.

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" allows the onstage threesome ample opportunity to flesh out an affecting portrait of comradeship and compassion in the worst of circumstances.

- Kerry Reid



Chris Rickett as the spiritual Adam and Jack Hickey (who bears a strong resemblance to Terry Waite) as the mild-mannered Michael both put in strong performances. Kevin Theis, **as the mercurial Edward, is just simply brilliant.**

In the intimacy of the Madison Street Studio Theatre, this is riveting drama. Don't let the bleak subject matter keep you away.

- Leah Zeldes

W E D N E S D A Y
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of Oak Park and River Forest

Watching three men chained to a wall all evening may not sound particularly compelling. But Oak Park Festival Theatre's new production of the 1992 play "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" by Irish dramatist Frank McGuinness is tightly staged and strongly performed.

Edward, the Irish prisoner, is a feisty journalist who has an estranged wife and children back home. He's played by Kevin Theis, who fully inhabits this passionate role. Edward is volatile, cocky, and at times vengeful.

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me is a thought-provoking, dynamic drama about three powerless men trapped in a desperate situation. This strong Oak Park Festival Theatre production is a tightly-paced and well-acted celebration of the resilient human spirit.

- Doug Deuchler