



SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

South Pasadena Review

PAGE 5

Thursday in Community Room

'Silent Witnesses' One-Woman Play at South Pasadena Library

"Silent Witnesses," a one-woman play starring and written by Stephanie Satie, will be presented on Thursday, September 20, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. Admission is free.

The drama, directed by Anita Khanzadian, is presented by the South Pasadena Public Library, the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, and the Living History Centre Fund.

It's an inspiring work, full of hope and renewal for adults and teens that's based on interviews and conversations with child survivors of Jewish Holocaust. It is Ms. Satie's third play, and follows the critically acclaimed "Refugees" and "Coming to America," the latter of which she skillfully performed for a sizeable, appreciative audience at the South Pasadena Library with the support of the Living History Centre Fund a couple of years ago.

The genesis of the play occurred in 2010 Stephanie Satie was invited to perform "Coming to America" as a fundraiser for a group called

Child Survivors of the Holocaust. When a post-performance discussion ensued about the intimate portrayals of the characters, a few audience members revealed their candid personal stories about being childhood survivors of the Holocaust. Many of them had been separated from their families as small children and never saw them again. They had later been interviewed by the SHOAH Foundation and their stories could be viewed at the Holocaust Museum, but they had been sanitized for public consumption.



NEW PLAY IN TOWN – "Silent Witnesses," a one-woman play starring and written by Stephanie Satie, will be presented on Thursday, September 20, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room.

PHOTO BY BILL GLAZIER

Stephanie began meeting with four of the women and recorded their "unsanitized" words. At the time she had no idea a play would emerge. One of the subjects named Dana said that she wanted her story to be in someone else's hands and Stephanie eventually structured all the stories so that they could serve as a celebration of the human spirit.

The play focuses on the four young girls who had grown up to be the four women Stephanie met and recorded. The first is 'Dana' who was picking daisies in a park when the bombs started to fall. Her child's mind blames itself for her predicament, but also remembers everything. Second is 'Hannah' who was taken away and brought to a transit home, and then to the home of Christians in Amsterdam. Hannah was not allowed to go outside, or to even stand by a window, and she soon forgot everything. Next appears 'Amelie' who was born in Poland and somehow found herself in Belgium. She felt "like a doll whose head was replaced with another" –and she continues looking for the old one. Lastly, there is 9 year-old 'Paula' who left the ghetto and hid in the forest and lived like a "little animal child."