

'So Long on Lonely Street' Slides Into NoHo Actors Studio

By Jessica Dearborn

So Long on Lonely Street, written by Sandra Deer, is a play that broad-sides, twists, and makes you lean forward in your chair. Under the direction of Chuck Parker, the pace is smooth and alluring which adds to the definition of the already layered Southern family, the Vaughnum's.

Set in a rundown old southern house on 25 barren acres of valuable land, *So Long on Lonely Street* brings together the Vaughnum family for the reading of crotchety old Aunt Pearl's will. The secrets of three generations are revealed as the potential heirs try to decide who is the rightful owner of the property. Throughout, they open closets that were once labeled taboo, uncovering family secrets. Each character struggles with what they stand to lose and to gain.

The cast includes many talented players, including the mesmerizing Alaina Reed Hall, who is otherwise known to her audience as "Olivia" on *Sesame Street* as well as her many other memorable roles in theatre, film, and television. The other equally talented cast members include Dean Cudworth, who in his role as King Vaughnum III, offers fire and dimension; Starr LaJoie, as Clarice Vaughnum, adds layers to her role by using her body language and facial expressions with ease; Andy Hagan, as Bobby Stack, effortlessly plays the country lawyer; Jennifer Ritchkoff, as Ruth Brown, enhances her character by adding surprise through her delivery alone; and Kevin Sizemore as Raymond Brown, unveils his character's struggle with his effortless performance.

I enjoyed the guilt-free pleasure of rooting for such a creative team and was easily drawn into the characters and story. Watching such talent was like taking a leisurely stroll on a Sunday afternoon.

All of the elements of this dramedy, including the movement of the actors, wardrobe, lighting, the set, sound effects, music, and the brilliant writing combined to create this funny, delicious, and vivid play.

The play was first introduced on Broadway in 1986 at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre. Immediately, it gained praise and success. And for the first time is playing in Los Angeles brought to us by Country Boy Productions. Produced by Dean Cutworth, Kevin Sizemore, Gina Lombardi, and Dan Elias, *So Long on Lonely Street* can be seen at the NoHo Actors Studio, 5215 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood in the NoHo Arts District. Call (818) 905-0892. Running through June 13. Hurry and reserve your seat today! You do not want to miss this genius!

