

THE CORONA VARIATIONS – REVIEW QUOTES!

ILANA LUCAS – MOONEY ON THEATRE

“The Corona Variations is a well-engineered marvel of calls...it’s the opposite of screaming into the void.”

“An impressive roster of Canadian theatre actors.”

“Each piece felt thoroughly present, holding my focus in a different way than the multitude of lovely performances currently on my screens.”

“...suddenly I wasn’t merely listening in or playing a role, I was simply myself. I was at home. ...I thought of all the theatre we won’t get to see this year, and of everything and everyone we’re going to lose, permanently. All of those voices, suddenly silenced. I hung up the phone for the last time that evening, and I burst into tears. I felt worse, then a little better. Moved, slightly, forward.”

“We’re not in the wake of this pandemic; we’re just testing the waters. Some tests are going to fail, and some are going to succeed. It’s not up to any artist or company to blaze a new trail or force ourselves into relevance, or to create when all we want to do is survive. But what we can do is offer moments of potential connection and catharsis. We can offer them to the whole world at once, or we can whisper them into a single ear. We can’t open our doors, but we can pick up the phone. I’m glad I picked up.”

THE (LYNN) SLOTKIN LETTER

*“Convergence Theatre is doing the impossible, bringing us theatre by phone and making it meaningful and joyful. **The Corona Variations is a wonderful accomplishment.**”*

“The stories are poignant and hilarious. ...Tepperman has beautifully captured the whimsy and depth of emotion that the characters are going through, and by extension, the audience.”

“**Tepperman** takes care of her audience as well as her actors. There are surprises—you might be asked to ‘engage’ when you don’t expect it. **Step up. Engage.**”

“I loved the complex effort of the whole endeavour. Trying to program what story was scheduled for what time must have been a Herculean effort. It all seemed effortless. **This is such a bold idea**—phone plays for quarantine and bravo to all of the participants for engaging with such commitment and verve.”

CBC ARTS: STUCK AT HOME with LEAH COLLINS and LISE HOSEIN

“**...doing a show over the phone really works.** Sound can be enough to really build a world and take you someplace else. ...It was definitely a jolt. And it was so lovely. **I wanted to listen to them talk all night.**”

“I think that **what's compelling is the range of conversations.** ...I appreciate **the variety of perspectives and the mix of tones.** There's usually a touch of goofiness, even in the serious scenes, and the plays cover a range of different relationships.”

“It brought home **the sheer vastness of emotional responses** people are having to being isolated, and how many of these narratives are forced to play out via phone. **It makes you feel less alone in the night.**”

“I honestly did love our conversations between plays and after it was over. It was great post-theatre talk. There's no way to recreate live theatre right now, not that anyone should even be trying to. But **one of my favourite things about a night out is the crackle of post-show conversation, and this was the closest thing to it.** You get to react immediately after the "curtain" drops — while wondering, just a little, if your chatter's being overheard... I don't think they were listening on the line. (At least, I'm pretty sure they weren't.)”

PAULA CITRON – Ludwig van TORONTO

“*The Corona Variations* was a lot of fun, and **participating as an actor gave the experience a frisson of added adventure.**”

“Collectively, they make for a **thoroughly enjoyable and imaginative experience.**”

“Lest we forget, the play cycle provides us with an evening of **something new and different, which is a big bonus in our current stay-at-home lives.**”

GLENN SUMI – NOW MAGAZINE

“That was very absorbing – 6 slices of life during COVID-19 in 8-10 minute vignettes. Some were interactive, some felt like eavesdropping, **all opened up distinct little worlds and for a brief moment made me reflect on mine.**” (*Tweet*)

“The powerful thing about listening to plays is how **voices and sounds can conjure up images of different people and places.** That's a big relief, especially since we're all stuck in our homes (and heads) these days.”

“Everything will be shut down for a while, but **at least there's something to look forward to.**”