

[Live Review - Beirut](#)

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Studio 16, Vancouver, BC

PikeFly Theatre presents its inaugural stage production of Alan Browne’s powerful one-act dystopian drama “Beirut,” the story of a near-future America overrun by a ruthless “Home Guard” and a terrifying disease. Director Michael Tayles, (Mom P.I., Alive), brings this chilling story to life with stark realism and heartbreaking emotion, grabbing the viewer by the throat and never letting go.

“Beirut” is the story of Blue and Torch, two lovers in the midst of a deadly plague similar to AIDS. To contain the outbreak those infected are segregated in the Lower East Side, (in an area aptly called “Beirut”), where they are stripped of all personal freedoms and forced to live in sterile, cubicle-sized rooms under the watchful eye of a merciless government.

Mylène Dinh-Robic, (DaVinci’s City Hall, The Quality of Life), portrays Blue, the uninfected woman who will risk anything for the love of her man. Myléne’s performance was brimming with emotional poignancy as she plays a woman who’s both tough and vulnerable. The depth of Blue’s love and the conflict this creates within her character comes across beautifully in Myléne’s portrayal, her frustration is palpable and her love undeniable.

Adam Lolacher, (Stargate Atlantis, Yumi In Love), is Torch, the infected object of Blue’s desire. Adam holds nothing back with a tough as nails performance and spot on New York accent. Never letting himself become too vulnerable, the overt strength of Adam’s character is a sharp contrast to the fear and loathing he must keep under wraps in order to survive. He wears his fear and frustration on his sleeve right next to his heart with such ardor you might forget he’s acting.

Russ Ball, (Cards on the Table, Under the Sycamore Tree), also makes a brief yet terrifying appearance as The Guard, (think “Bad Lieutenant” to the Nth degree). This character really solidifies the fear and desperation of Blue and Torch’s situation with his convincing and uncompromising contempt and abuse of power.

Kudos must also go out to set designer Michael Gall, (Strangers on a Train, Bus Stop), who’s stark, dismal, yet very realistic environment truly brings this play to life.

An all around impressive production, “Beirut” will definitely satisfy those who prefer a darker, smarter, edgier theatre experience. “Beirut” runs from now until October 7th at Studio 16, 1555 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC.

Our thanks to PikeFly Theatre and Titania Productions for inviting us to this the first of many successful stage productions.

[PikeFly Theatre.com](http://PikeFlyTheatre.com)

[Titania Productions.com](http://TitaniaProductions.com)

By [Grimm Culhane](#)

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