



*CurtainUp*

**The Internet Theater Magazine of Reviews, Features, Annotated Listings**  
**www.curtainup.com**

<http://www.curtainup.com/fringe07.html#poppies>

### ***Poppies***

*Poppies* is a powerful drama, rich in both content and meaning. The play, which takes place during the 1999 NATO bombing of Belgrade, is adapted by Lane Keller from her expansive novel *Covenant of Poppies*. As the bombs explode overhead, an American journalist (Shawn Barber) stumbles into a Belgrade bar and meets the proprietors: a brother and sister who seem to exemplify the divisiveness and loss the war has caused. The brother, Nico (Evan Greenspoon), is a Serb in love with an Albanian Muslim; the sister (Dana Mazzenga) tries to win over the American in order to get a Visa out. Meanwhile, Nico's militant group plots a genocidal attack. And if that isn't enough action for you, there's also the commentator Bog (Brandt Adams). He's a subversive deejay who tries to fight the war in his own way: as an openly gay voice on the censored radio. It makes for a very harrowing story, one that's also unapologetically political and intellectual. The production itself is as strong as the script. *Poppies* is a play full of harsh, nationalistic, passionate people, and the cast brings all these characters to life vividly. I was especially impressed by Adams as Bog and Greenspoon as Nico, although the entire company of eight is dedicated and compelling. Additionally, composer Nikola Matic has contributed a score that fuses Serbian folk and contemporary influences to very good effect. *Poppies* is a real find for Fringe-goers looking for a thoughtful, moving piece of theatre. At Connelly Theatre. 75 minutes. [Furay]