

A Small Act of Courage

Written, Directed & Performed by

Dylan Brody

Co-Written by Alex Bernstein

Produced by Dylan Brody & Derek Okanus

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK CITY

Critical Analysis

★★★★★

Dylan Brody is a comedian, storyteller, and musician. During one of his performances in Brattleboro, Vermont, he pulls the audience closer together with his natural skill and well-honed act. We get a sense not just of his theatrical presence but also of his charm in the span of barely fifteen minutes.

Dylan Brody, a master of jocular and wit, has crafted, developed, and performed spectacular acts through his novels, finesse and charm over the years. Brody has



produced a great body of work, lots of which take time and deciphering.

When we take a leap of faith (via sudoku of course) we travel to a greater level of arrogance and test our faith against doubt.

Whether it's faith in god, other people, or ourselves that decipher our self-confidence and the actions that stem from it, Brody deftly confronts us on stage with immensely genuine topics like our relationship with religion.

“Does he play to the the sound of cicadas while sipping sambuca?”

“Do they speak of antiques and quote some quant haiku?”

These are all concerns that continue to perplex our critics, but we are intrigued by the hidden background Brody sends our way, which we feel represents the inner spirit of the artistic curiosity inside oneself, as well as the conviction in wondering if we can or cannot achieve our greater purposes.

His performance has a unique and clever style of delivering stories, staying content and fully direct with his audience in a manner that anyone could appreciate, regardless of if

they are in the same room as him or watching from a far on a computer screen.

For example, he tells us about the time he ran a poem he had written by some friends, who interpreted it as having elements in common with Seuss rhymes. Even so, one of the children of his friends provides Brody with feedback; obviously a very quick thinker, and Brody admits that he didn't want to provide a rewrite to the comments that were made.

When Brody confesses his atheism and newfound interest in druidry and bardism, he debates a profound and more logical turn. He goes on to explain that despite having been raised Jewish and having experimented with many other religions and philosophies, including Buddhist meditation, he ultimately came to the conclusion that the solutions to life's most pressing questions may be found in astronomy and mathematics.

Though playfully expressed, there is truth in what Brody is saying; at the end of the tunnel, we are led to view the mirror (in this instance, the child he reminds us of). Brody understands that the future, whether we like it or not, rests inside adjustments and owning to them, and although we may not know precisely what the greater force above all of us is, we can agree that there is a coming of age.

All of this is translated to us within a wide range of his melodic and lyrical narrative telling, and it's done so while also being musical and performed live, something that is not an easy feat and is not the standard for storytellers.

Dylan Brody has a great deal of energy, which he displays both on stage and in his writing. As was noted before, giving live performances of essential concepts is not a simple task and is certainly something that requires skill.

We were impressed by Dylan Brody's skill in fusing classical grandeur with contemporary sensitivity in *A Small Act of Courage*, and we look forward to seeing more of his work in the form of video or other written works in the future.

