

New Recommended Pick

Bradley Rand Smith's 1983 stage adaptation of Dalton Trumbo's 1939 novel transforms an impassioned indictment of the physical brutality of war into a chilling metaphor for the current war drive, and the seeming indifference of our leadership to the calls around the world protesting it. Private Joe Bonham (a gripping Grant Tyler) claws his way back to consciousness after losing his limbs and face. Even if we don't empathize with his physical plight, we certainly do with the proverbial gag wrapped around his mouth. Record numbers gathered in last weekend's anti-war rallies, and still troops amass. How can such a noisy scream be such a silent one? Smith's direction evokes the physical coils that bind the play's lone soldier through quick, highly expressive motions, as Leigh Allen's severe lighting and Michael D. Mortilla's sound help pull those coils more tightly around Tyler's frenetic body. Stages Theater Center, 1540 N. McCadden Pl., Hlywd.; Thurs.-Sun., 8 p.m.; thru March 16. (323) 465-1010 . **Written 2/20/03** (Luis Reyes)