

## **Discover Blueberry Pond**

Posted By Bob Heisler On September 29, 2006 @ 5:49 pm

Ah-ha moments in theater can come anywhere, from the physical insight of Bill Irwin in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" in a packed Broadway house to a tiny stage set with two boxes at the [1] Blueberry Pond Theatre Ensemble's laboratory tucked into Cedar Pond Park in Ossining.

Maybe you'll find it, too, if you make the drive to Ossining tonight or tomorrow at 8 p.m. Or maybe you'll just laugh, or relax or see the world more clearly. Live theater can do that, too.

Only one person watches Cynthia Granville and Donna James as they run through "Conversation at Choctaw Junction," part of this weekend's Fall Theatre Sampler. It's a warm, Louisiana evening in the scene written by Jean-Paul Devellard. The crickets are already out. So are the flies. Granville's character is already drunk, already anticipating a visit from some man. James is older, mostly wiser, certainly more in control - except for the beatings she receives from her husband. They each want to help the other step up and change her life. Neither wants to discuss her own deal with the devil.

I watched Granville and James as they rehearsed - turning words on paper into a setting, a time and a relationship - James changing the mood with a rise in her voice, Granville pushed her friend's words away and filled the space with a drink. They worked at the words, tried different ways of moving, different distances between them. On stage, two women, trapped as much by circumstance as pain, struggle for common ground. What they find is love and pity and resignation.

Look, I've already spent too much time on this. Just go. There'll be scenes from eight plays the ensemble writers and actors are developing. Find one you like and you can follow it through to a full performance one day. At least that's the idea. And don't be shy about suggesting what worked and what didn't. That's how scenes grow into polished plays.

It's two hours of solid theater for \$30. Then come back and tell me whether you heard the crickets, too.

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[1] Blueberry Pond Theatre Ensemble's: [http://www.blueberrypond.org/bpac\\_frameset.htm](http://www.blueberrypond.org/bpac_frameset.htm)

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