

CHESS review

How much praise is too much? It's not too much to say the opening night of "Chess" which I attended tonight was truly powerful and superbly performed by a brilliant cast. Comments I overheard from the audience included: "What a wonderful evening!" "What incredible voices!" "This is the most ambitious production Naples has ever done!"

Honestly, I had gone with reservations, given the description that the plot was about chess and politics. Pretty dull stuff, right? Was I ever wrong! "Chess" has more drama and excitement in it than anything you're going to catch on TV this weekend. By the end, I was ready to rip out the cold hearts of both the KGB and CIA agents.

Be forewarned. It's a serious show. Think of a cold war "Les Miserables." It's not fluff. Much of the plot is told through lyrics, and more than half of the show is singing. The singers are simply splendid -- excellent quality voices with clear diction. The live 5-piece orchestra for the show is also outstanding. "Chess" only runs through Sunday, March, 11. Get a seat if you can and support this fledgling Actor's Equity Theatre in Naples. You'll be glad you did.