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Blitzkrieg!!!

par Naomi Lee Fook

Blitzkrieg by Bryan Wade, directed by Tracy Matheson, played last week at Theatre Glendon.

Rating: *****½

Blitzkrieg. The "lightning war" tactic which eliminated so many soldiers during World War II - soldiers for whom we stopped to hold vigils last weekend. During this past Remembrance Day Weekend, **Blitzkrieg** (the play) resurfaced at the Glendon Theatre with just as much force as its namesake, leaving its house astounded.

As the audience entered, it was greeted with a Third Reich Propaganda film of Hitler's famous speech at the Nuremberg Rally. While watching this, one couldn't help but notice the power and control that this little man had ueber alles Deutschland.

It was with almost the same power and control that Greg Freir portrayed **Blitzkrieg's** Adolf Hitler. This Hitler was the "behind the scenes" Hitler; he was similar to the public Hitler in that he could still be a dominant leader - as shown best in the extremely intense and sadistic scene of gun-play with Eva Braun (Heather Hodson) - yet different as the childlike lover of Eva Braun. Freir's strongest portrayal of Hitler was in the scene where Hitler relays his Rat Nightmare to Eva. Especially effective was Freir's direct eye-contact with

the audience, driving his intensity like bullets straight into the eyes of the selected individuals.

However, the most commendable performance of the evening was Heather Hodson's portrayal of Eva Braun. Hodson tackled this difficult role with ease - she could act as a complete "airhead" when she was the obedient and playful Eva; yet as she took up the reins to become Eva Braun, "The First Lady of the Reich," Hodson perfectly timed and combined the releasing of her control over Hitler with the intense strength with which she controls him.

Mike Ford made his character of Martin Bormann into the

perfect "lounge lizard" - playing his tune to Hitler's beck and call, but still knowing how to pull one over on the boss. Nancy Cronyn interpreted the character of Greta just as well, giving Greta a similar intensity during the gun scene at the end as her "sister" Eva had done previously.

Special commendations go to the technical crew of this show - the lights and techniques (i.e. the blank screen) added just the polished edges to the already gut-wrenching scenes performed below them.

So, if you missed **Blitzkrieg**, you missed a spectacular production which probably could "never in a thousand years", be repeated.