

BACKSTAGE west TM

'Lucid Sound' at the Miles Memorial Playhouse

Andy Mitton's surreal romantic fantasy is about a woman who embarks on a dreamlike odyssey to recapture a lost love.

As their Florida house is assailed

ED KRIEGER



Metaphor and against: Taryn Reneau, Jaime Ray Newman, Frank Smith, and Michael Laurino in *Lucid Sound*.

by a hurricane, smart professional mapmaker Sue-Ann (Jaime Ray Newman) squabbles with her uptight husband, Solomon (Clark Freeman). The spark has gone out of their marriage. As if to prove it, albeit symbolically, the picturesque beach on which the couple first fell in love has been washed out to sea. Sue-Ann drifts into a fantasy—or maybe it's real, we're never sure. She finds herself on a magical cliff, where she hooks up with Simeon (Frank Smith), a Fabio-type hottie in a loincloth. Pretty much out of nowhere, the two decide to travel the world in search of the magical land of Norestaplevia, where they should be able to find all the answers to their questions of true love. Meanwhile a mysterious witch (Taryn Reneau) appears out of nowhere and turns Solomon into a murderous monster. As Sue-Ann and Simeon learn about love in various cities, the diabolical Solomon stalks them hither and thither with a huge, increasingly bloodstained hammer.

Director Sam Roberts' production is excellent, with crisp, efficient blocking and a number of movingly heartfelt performances. Particularly engaging is the outlandish and subtle interplay between Newman's Sue-Ann and Smith's whimsical Simeon. And in the supporting roles, Reneau, in a variety of parts including the evil witch, steals almost every scene she's in.

Presented by Sight Unseen Theatre Group at the Miles Memorial Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m. Oct. 21-Nov. 19. (877) 986-7336.

Reviewed by Paul Birchall