

## **Review : The Wave**

10/2013

“The Wave”, known as a novel, is the current English play at “Akademie der Künste” (Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin) , based on a real social experiment in the United States in 1967.

“The Wave”, originally called “The Third Wave”, takes place in Ron Jones’ history class which deals with the Second World War focusing on Nazi Germany. Depicting details which left the students speechless and irritated, he thought he successfully demonstrated the cruelty of the time and situation. In his discomfort caused by his class` reaction, he decides to approach the topic once more, but this time from another point of view. He puts lots of thought into the plan and after some consideration he comes up with an idea. The next day he confronts the class and suggests an experiment. The class joins in and the turnout is surprising to all of them. They now come to the conclusion, that the power of group dynamics shall not be underestimated, not in history and not in the present or the future.

One gets the impression that the five actors who are now presenting this material on stage, are motivated by the omnipresence of the problems the book deals with. Problems like peer pressure and gang behavior will always be up-to-date and therefore need periodic recognition. Five actors performed the story in changing roles with the help of minimalistic props, audio and visual effects. In the beginning, I doubted that the actors and just a couple of white wooden boxes would be enough to put the play on stage, but after a while they convinced me: it was perfectly manageable. The language used was perfectly understandable and those who might have had some problems understanding still would have been able to understand the plot, because it was not overplayed.

The tickets were affordable and the “Akademie der Künste” was easy to find once you arrived at the train station “Bellevue” and followed the signs. As a member of a student group everyone got a discount on the ticket price.

Not just for students of the advanced English class, I recommend the play. Also to those who would like to train or brush up their language skills while being entertained.

Thumbs up!

by Ivy Kräuter