

THE ARTS ETC

CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY

Byam Stevens, Artistic Director
presents

ANIMALS OUT of PAPER

by Rajiv Joseph

Directed by May Andrales

July 5 - 15, 2012

REVIEWED by DONNA BAILEY-THOMPSON

Chester's 23rd season
opener demonstrates
their integrity continues
to provide quality
productions -- with an
edge. Animals Out of
Paper intrigues,
tantalizes and strikes

sentences, and struck
all the right notes for
the right reasons. The
three actors are
perfectly cast and well-
directed. The intricate
script stimulates and
respectfully unfolds –
like origami.

Some on line reviews of
Animals Out of Paper
presented by other
American companies
indicate subtlety was
chucked in favor of
forced humor: the first
act is described as
“hilarious” which
considering the delicacy
of the script suggests
the interpretation was
achieved by
cheapening the
carefully constructed
lines in favor of a
mindless sitcom. This is
where Artistic Director
Byam Stevens’ integrity
earns his keep and
consequently attracts
appreciative audiences.

Ilana (Elizabeth Rich) is
a world-renowned

origami artist feeding into her depression by living in her bathrobe, who has blocked her talent so thoroughly she is unable to fold. Into her life comes Andy (Chad Hoepfner), a teacher who literally counts his blessings – thousands of them – that he makes note of -- literally – in a small notebook. He wants to introduce Suresh one of his pupils, an authentic genius, to Ilana. As this engaging trio becomes better acquainted and a rhythm of normalcy develops, so do fleeting insights of their lives. We shift from being voyeurs to caring about their well-being.

Between Playwright Rajiv Joseph's sensitive script and Director May Adrales' respect for this gem, the first of four uncommon love stories comes to life.

The technical

The technical
contributions are a
credit to imagination
and construction.
Scenic Designer Vicki
R. Davis' dramatic
statements generate
strength. Lighting
Designers Lara Dubin
and Jill Nagle, Sound
Designer Tom Shread
and Costume Designer
Heather Crocker
Aulenback create
unobtrusive success.

This production of *Animals Out of Paper* is highly recommended.