Vanessa Stewart

I've been in mourning. I miss theater. I mourn for all the lost opening nights, the sitting inches away from a good performance, all my friends who had a job and now don't, the postponed seasons from coast to coast including our own at Sacred Fools. As some shows and readings have moved online, I haven't been able to watch any of them because I was scared it might depress me even more. I don't like watching anything on my computer. How could a streaming show replace the magic of anything I see in a theater- actors having one shot to get it right and craft performances that will leave me talking in the car on the way home. No special effects, clever edits or manipulative music. How could anything on my computer be theater?

I was wrong. Last night, I was spellbound watching Rob Nagle's brilliant performance as Richard Nixon in The Blank Theater's incredible production of Nixon on Nixon. Sean Waldron's script was so clever and engaging, which is rare for one man shows. I found myself moved to tears a few times. The performance, the script and the intimacy of it were all things I expect to find in a theater. The things I've been yearning to experience since everyone's favorite entertainment became "Tiger King". I was heartened to see Bree Pavey's socially distant direction of Rob go so well.

Now while none of the streaming plays will ever completely replace the experience of sitting in a theater, I'm relieved to know that in the interim- theater, and its actors, can get through this for now.

Even though last night's performance was thrillingly LIVE, you can still catch a recording of it on You Tube. Can't recommend enough. Especially if you need an example of how to do theater online... Congrats to Daniel Henning and everyone at The Blank!

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The Blank Theatre

THE BLANK is committed to the enrichment of Hollywood's cultural life through production of first-rate theatre, education of current and future