



Sebastian Jose Castillo (Eduardo Enrikez, left) and Pilar Esperanza Castillo (Esperanza America) share a romantic encounter in *Destiny of Desire*. Sister Sonia (Catherine Castellanos) provides musical accompaniment.

*Henry IV, Part 1* and *Henry IV, Part 2* documented the uncertain rise of the immature Prince Hal from the tavern to the throne.

This season brings us the concluding play of the cycle, as young Hal at last takes the English crown and plunges into war with France in *Henry V*.

Guest director Rosa Joshi, a founding member of Seattle's upstart crow collective, directs this show in the small Thomas Theatre using an ensemble cast and an unusually fluid style of storytelling that keeps everyone and everything in motion for the entire two and a half hour show.

Simply seeing Daniel José Molina's Henry is, all by itself, worth the price of admission. Molina, young and charismatic, is absolutely right in the role of the young king, tortured but not slowed by his awareness of the heavy responsibility of leadership. I saw him last year as Hal, the callow, younger version of Henry, in *Henry IV, Part One*. He was appealing then; he's perfect now as the not-quite-grown-up king.

At the opening on Saturday, Feb. 24, Molina pushed himself to clear emotional exhaustion (I later heard he had been feeling ill) and real tears onstage; the tears returned, this time as tears of relief, in the curtain call.

Well done.

In the *Henry IV* plays last year, OSF veteran G. Valmont Thomas played a marvelous Falstaff, the larger-than-life drunken wastrel and charmer who leads young Hal astray. Thomas died in December, so the death of Falstaff, which takes place offstage in *Henry V*, hit both the cast and OSF regulars with a special poignancy.

Finally, let me note that the set, basically a pile of large gray building blocks by Richard Hay, contributes hugely to the unique flow of this production. Without any spoilers, I've never seen an abstract set used so effectively.



Now the king of England, Henry V must make decisions that will have life-and-death impacts on his subjects in *Henry V*.