



Mississippi
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 North Portland

MIETRO

Vancouver
 East County
 Beaverton

Painful Truths



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM/COURTESY OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
 Dembi (Kimberly Scott, left) and Adjua (June Carryl) find a book in the pocket of the man (Danforth Comins) they've pulled from the sea in 'The Liquid Plain,' now playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. Photo by Jenny Graham.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival wades in where angels fear to tread

OPINIONATED JUDGE
 BY JUDGE DARLEEN ORTEGA



It's hard to imagine a setting for a play more challenging and complex than the slave trade. It's a history that we as a culture carry in our collective DNA; our very economic system was built, quite literally, on the backs of human beings who had been kidnapped and transported under unimaginable conditions into lives that explicitly denied their status as human beings. We have barely begun to scratch the surface in our collective consciousness about the implications of this past for our present.

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