

Effective, reflective message for masses

NORTH Shore playwright Victor Kline has tapped into a rich vein of contemporary philosophy with his play, *The Rehabilitation of God*.

With the *Live 8* concerts attracting worldwide attention from ordinary folk to the issues discussed at the G8 Conference in Scotland, Kline's play asserts the beliefs and hopes of the masses as opposed to those of the controlling few.

Staged in the state-of-the-art Star of the Sea Theatre in the grounds of Stella Maris College, Manly, this is a sparkling, stimulating and innovative production.

The preposterous plot deals with an endearing group of characters: priest Jim O'Neil (Dean Tuttle), de-frocked for heretical views; his staunch pal Frank (Paul Malaith), with him through thick and thin; TV anchorwoman Shannen Maguire (Suzanne Hauser), who becomes a total convert; and Shannen's lawyer friend Sasha (Belinda Marques) – with charismatic performances all round.

First, the set: a collection of large blocks which characters re-arrange in abstract, sometimes reflective but always effective groupings - assisted in these effects by full sized images, mainly of the sea - projected behind.

Next the movement – with conversations between the two female characters frequently part of impressive fitness workouts. These are two very fit girls.

Next the structure – a mixture of intimate conversations and one-sided dialogues which keep the audience at attention.

Then the content – with lots of philosophical arguments to tantalise the intelligentsia and a sharp, true message for the masses.

» *The Rehabilitation of God*, by Victor Kline and directed by Roz Riley. Factory Space Theatre Company. Star of the Sea Theatre, Manly until Saturday. Bookings on 9439 1906



Jim O'Neil played by Dean Tuttle and Shannon McGuire played by Suzanne Hauser in Victor Kline's *Rehabilitation of God*.