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## Dying City

by **Patrick Shannon, III**, Ambush Magazine Theatre Critic

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Southern Rep's recent production of Christopher Shinn's *Dying City* was a masterpiece of directorial and acting restraint. Once again we were able to experience another cutting edge play in a high quality production.

To quote the good synopsis of the plot from the program, *Dying City* is a theater goers play requiring a lot of concentration. "The plot concerns a young female therapist, Kelly whose husband Craig was killed in Iraq. A year later, Kelly is attempting to move on when Craig's twin brother, Peter, arrives unbidden and unannounced. An actor and a star, Peter's just walked off-stage mid-performance. Although he seems to have everything, what Peter needs only Kelly can give. In a taut, unique structure, we jump between this reunion and Craig and Kelly's final revelatory night together."

The direction of Julie Hamburg was faultless. Peter McElligott, playing the roles of both brothers, Craig and Peter was inspired and Angelena Swords as Kelly was at the top of her talent. Needless to say, this compelling and singularly unique play was done on a chic set by Geoffrey Hall, with lights by Marty Sachs and costumes by Kellie Grengs. Sound was by Mike Singleton. The overall effect of this daunting production was pure theater at its best. Nothing less than we have come to expect from our own Southern Repertory Theatre.