

**Wiener Zeitung – May 4, 2004**

## **Why hippie camps and the military are the same**

### **vtp's "Blast from the past" - Hilarious**

In a time when more and more people can only shake their heads when looking over the ocean, the vienna theatre project (vtp) stages a play that gives a hilarious insight into these strange ways of thinking: "Blast from the past", an adaptation of Ben Elton's book by the same name.

Polly (Bronwynn Mertz) is a woman, a former anarchist, a social worker and she is British. Jack (Dennis Kozeluh) is a man, a soldier, in line for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and he is American. This explosive combination is used to create a hilarious picture of extremism. Being quite aware of their differences - "We make Romeo and Juliet seem like an arranged marriage" (Jack) - both still confess their love, although for one their political commitment proves stronger in the end.

The play explores British irony as well as the American cowboy mentality. It clashes military submissiveness with liberal thinking and it forces together the US-feeling of superiority with the disarming views of a young female pacifist. What adds to the contrasts in the play is the cast director Martin Buxbaum chose. Mertz especially convinces as the young, at-times naive Polly who only shows signs of emotional weakness but never surrenders to Jack's political convictions.

The play will be on until May 15 from Monday to Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Theater Die Tribüne, Café Landtmann.

<http://www.viennatheatreproject.at>