

Three new works and a Pulitzer Prize-winner lighting up Dallas stages

FILED UNDER THEATER AT SEP 11

Written by



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It's sad to acknowledge that the American premiere of *Winston's Birthday* is the last play for Theatre Britain before the panto, *The Three Musketeers*, that will mark the company's closing as co-founder and artistic director Sue Birch and her husband, Ian Birch, return to England. This play, by New Zealand-based historian Paul Baker, ushers audiences into a day in the life of the dysfunctional family of Winston Churchill, with his adult children warring for attention in a world that's transformed around them, as they gather to celebrate the great man's 88th birthday.

Sue Birch directs a smart cast with panache that underscores the absence of absolute truth in history — so much of what's revealed reminds us that our perception of what happened is colored by people telling us the story from their own vantage point, often with an agenda. Adding to the experience is an exhibit in the lobby with copies of original Churchill photos and relevant artwork, plus books by and about the characters Baker so nimbly and affectionately depicts.