

Natasha Wood's ROLLING WITH LAUGHTER, a solo show about a woman who is challenged in one way but blessed in another, makes its world premier at the El Portal Theater in North Hollywood.

Natasha is one of those folks that have big dreams in a bigger world. She's from Great Britain, the birthplace of Shakespeare, assorted Kings and Queens, and the Fab Four. She dreams of bring an actor and living in a great marriage--just as long as she takes things sitting down. She doesn't have much of a choice. She was born with a rare genetic disorder called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), where she has difficulty standing on her legs and has limited usage of her arms. She is confined to a motorized wheelchair, but something like SMA isn't going to stop this woman with big plans while having a bigger heart! With her cute cockney accent, Natasha tells her story of her supportive parents, two other siblings (one normal, while the other is just as challenged as she), her boyfriend later husband later ex-husband, living in the states making a living, and an opportunity to make people laugh!

Natasha isn't bitter over her situation. In fact, she calls herself "the luckiest girl in the world", where she can do what she wants--just as long it doesn't involved standing on her two feet!

Cameron Watson directs this production that features Natasha, her wheelchair, and wit--plenty of wit! Although her predicament is rather sad, this production (though sober at times), isn't a pityfest. It's a story of courage, faith, and having very large bras! (One has to experience this show in order to understand that last line!) Beverly Sanders adds to the wit with some additional material, but it's Natasha all the way with her charm and appeal.

ROLLING WITH LAUGHTER will roll one into laughter, with a good dose of faith, hope, and charity. Not charity to give, but charity one will get! This production is one of a kind! (How many other solo shows featuring a performer in a wheelchair one would know of that's out there?) And out of those eight million stories in the naked city, this one is the eight millionth and one!

*NATASHA WOOD: ROLLING WITH LAUGHTER, performs at the El Portal Theatre, 5269 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood, until May 8th. Showtimes are Monday and Tuesday nights @ 8:00 PM. Reservations and information, call (818) 508-4200, or via the web at <http://www.elportaltheatre.com>
Visit the official web site at <http://www.rollingwithlaughter.com>*

ACCESSIBLY LIVE OFF-LINE
(Vol. 12-No. 15-Week of April 9th, 2007)