

LOCAL NEWS

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THEATER

Estelle Condra takes showcase to Atlanta stage

By CLARA HIERONYMUS

Nashville actress Estelle Condra will perform tomorrow during the Paralympics in Atlanta.

Her one-woman show, *Caged*, which was done at Darkhorse Theater here, will be featured at the Association of Theater & Accessibility Showcase at 8 p.m. in Seven Stages Theatre in Atlanta's Little Five Points area.

The ATA and Paralympic events is expected to draw artists and athletes with disabilities to Atlanta, as an unprecedented gathering of people from the United States and other countries.

Condra, who grew up in South Africa, is a professional actress whose training was in London. *Caged* is a high energy performance that takes her from sighted childhood to non-sighted adulthood. Director Robert Kieffer says "she climbs and runs, she dances and jumps without conveying any inkling of her blindness." She wrote *Caged*, which evolved over four years as she called on innovative techniques to help herself and other blind actors feel safe and comfortable on stage.

The story begins in South Africa, where as a child she listened to folklore and tribal drums. The plot involves her efforts to escape fate by consulting eye specialists, faith healers, homeopaths and witch doctors, and eventually to find a way for her human spirit to free itself.

Caged has been performed at universities and elsewhere in the Southeast and is booked through August 1997. It will be staged in Nashville again in November. For information on the Paralympic Games, call 404-588-1998 Voice or Relay. ■

Clara Hieronymus reviews theater for *The Tennessean*.