

new leaf



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Brilliant Traces by Cindy Lou Johnson
Directed by Tanya Ray

REVIEWS

Chicago Reader, October 14, 2004

The New Leaf Theatre's elegant quarters in a Chicago Park District building must have presented something of a challenge to scenic designer Marni Woloszyn. It can't have been easy to replicate a spartan cabin deep in the Alaskan wilderness in a room notable for its polished woodwork and floors. Still, the design never detracts from Cindy Lou Johnson's delicately enchanting tale of a reclusive oil rigger and a runaway bride who find shelter together during a literal and spiritual snowstorm. This two-character play has been a storefront staple here for at least a decade, but under Tanya Ray's perceptive direction, Christian Heep and Marsha Harman make the most of the script's stuttering rhythms and pivotal silences to evoke an intimacy steeped in romantic suspense.

- *Mary Shen Barnidge*

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NEW LEAF THEATRE