“The Woman in Black” is a very proper ghost story — proper not only in its British style and setting but, more importantly, in its faithfulness to a tradition going back to long before the genre was elbowed aside by slasher movies and tales of alien possession.

The Renegade Comedy Theatre production, which opened Thursday at Teatro Zuccone, has director Julie Ahasay demonstrating once again what she can do with a good script and just two talented actors. “Woman in Black” is on a par with “Stones in His Pockets,” which she directed for Renegade a couple of seasons back.

In “Woman,” she has actors Andy Bennett and Chris Nollet, two of the region’s finest; a script by Stephen Mallatratt, whose dialogue, adapted from a novel by Susan Hill, is clever and evocative; and a soundtrack by Andy and Tony Bennett. Together, these elements held an opening-night audience on the edge of its seats for nearly two hours.

Nollet plays a lawyer who has hired an actor/director, played by Bennett, to help him relate the story of what happened when the lawyer was sent to a remote manor house to clean up the affairs of an elderly recluse who had died. The experience had so haunted him in the years since he hopes to exorcise his personal demons by relating them to family and friends. In addition to the lawyer, Nollet portrays a number of other characters, each distinctive, in a most impressive display of versatility.

“Woman” is genteel; its most explicit violence is the sounds of a crash by a small, horse-drawn cart. It is restrained; its only visible manifestation of the supernatural is several silent appearances by a woman dressed in black. But it is nonetheless thoroughly unsettling.

Much of its power comes from Bennett’s and Nollet’s portrayals of an ordinary man completely confident that he understands the world and nature, until experience forces him to acknowledge that he does not. Both also are masterful at creating the illusion of different scenes, from a lawyer’s office to a cemetery to a gloomy, isolated old mansion, on a virtually bare stage.

The actors’ work is reinforced by the elaborate soundtrack, which includes not only original eerie music but key sound effects, such as the rhythmic thudding — like that of a racing heartbeat — created by an empty but madly rocking chair. The track is so integral to the overall effect that perfect timing is essential, and that’s what board operator Scott Hebert provided.

Ghosts onstage go back to long before Shakespeare had Hamlet chatting with his dead father, but they’re more often used to carry messages. In “Woman in Black,” the ghost is there for the sake of being there, the purpose being to disquiet the audience. And she’s goooood.

What: “The Woman in Black”
Where: Renegade Comedy Theatre at Teatro Zuccone, 222 E. Superior St.
When: 8 p.m. today, Saturday, Oct. 22-24 and 29-30; and 10 p.m. Oct. 31
How much: $15 for adults, $12 for students and seniors
The review: Chilling, a perfect Halloween show