



Aunt Dan and Lemon



Playwright: Wallace Shawn

Director: Robert Garfat

Cast:

Aunt Dan: Claire Brown

Lemon: Annabel Kershaw

Mindy: Jennifer Griffin

Raimondo: Tim Healy

Marty / Andy: David Ley

Father / Jasper / Freddy: Doug Tuck

Mother / June / Flora: Hillary Strang

Awards:

* Jessie Richardson Award:

Outstanding Performance (lead), Annabel Kershaw

Jessie Richardson award nominations:

Outstanding Direction, Robert Garfat

Outstanding Performance (supporting), Jennifer Griffin

a letter from the playwright...

To Whom It May Concern

This is simply to re-emphasize how impressed and excited I was by the Pink Ink production of my play AUNT DAN AND LEMON directed by Robert Garfat. The commitment, intelligence, and intense feeling that were lavished on my text made me feel at once proud and humble. The production's combination of detailed and careful analysis, on the one hand, and forcefully direct presentation on the other hand, seemed to seize the audience by the throat, and I only wished, when the piece was over, that it could be seen by more people! What a great company!

Wallace Shawn

May 14, 1989

a review from our archives...

SUBTLE POISON MAKES POTENT PLAY MEMORABLE

by LLOYD DYKK

AUNT DAN AND LEMON

Pink Ink/Vancouver Little Theatre

3102 Main. To April 8 at 8:30 p.m.

Aunt Dan and Lemon is a poisonously subtle play about the way ideas polarize themselves as if overnight – about how the prevailing winds of correct opinion may sweep you up without your even noticing.

A young English woman (Leonore, but nicknamed Lemon) sits in an armchair, pallid and thin from her staple diet of juices. She spends her time alone thinking over what she's read about the Nazi death camps, about her childhood and its singularly formative influence – her Aunt Dan.

...

Aunt Dan, an articulate and even charming woman, is a hawk (the action takes place during the Vietnamese War). An aggressive proponent of the war and an obsessive adorer of Henry Kissinger, she argues her points with a mixture of the pragmatic, the informed and the fearlessly candid. Everything she says sounds so enlightened, and yet – as is felt by Lemon's gentle and passive mother – so fundamentally wrong somehow.

A fragile truth is being sifted into oblivion at the same time that we are tauntingly asked for some viable definition of compassion and an honest denial of the unthinkable. For example: How much cruelty do we secretly enjoy? And, when does extermination become simple expediency?

Very much a test of an audience's conscience, the play acquires a merciless knifelike smoothness under the fine direction of Robert Garfat. ...

The ensemble is first-rate... But the two striking performances are Jennifer Griffin's London call girl, Mindy, who is as raw and natural as life, and Annabel Kershaw's Lemon, who in that final blasphemous monologue is spellbinding. She becomes one of those people who you know are wrong and who can still talk rings around you.

Lighting Designer and Technical Director: Mark Deggan

Set Designer: Susan Madsen

Costume Designer: Patricia Kramer

Production Manager: Sandhano Schultze

Photographer: Stephen Mitchell

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