

1: Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine | Northwestern School of Communication

Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine is a play written by Lynn Nottage.

It is a riches-to-rags story that follows the apparent decline of Undine from her high-profile job in Manhattan back to the projects where she grew up. Although she loses her status, wealth, and pride, she gains wisdom and self-knowledge that would have eluded her in her prior existence. Facing the people from her past, she must come to accept them and herself as she learns that one can never truly outrun the past. Although the characters are primarily African-American, and the play is often categorized as an African-American play, most of the content is universal. Nottage may be making a statement about the particular importance of African Americans honoring each other in all social strata and taking pride in their past, but the themes are applicable to many backgrounds and experiences. There is nothing, after all, about Undine that is only relevant to African Americans or even women. She is a person who finds herself in a situation faced by many people the world over and in all eras. The result is an accessible play about confronting uncomfortable personal truths. As of , she still lived in New York City. Even as a young girl, she enjoyed writing scripts in her personal journal. Although she worked as a press officer for Amnesty International after graduating, she later returned to writing. It was a short play entry that reignited her desire to write scripts; that play, *Poof!* She has worked as an award-winning playwright and as a visiting lecturer in playwriting, and scripts continue to inspire and motivate her creativity. Her plays have been produced worldwide. The resulting play was her work, *Mud, River, Stone*. The year was a busy one for Nottage. One of her plays to see publication was *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, which tells the story of a widower and his two daughters who move from Florida to New York to live with family. Set in the s, the African-American family faces personal struggles within the family, along with social struggles in the upheaval of the day. *Intimate Apparel* was also published in , and tells the story of a long-distance relationship and the challenges that come when the couple marries. It is an unusual rags-to-riches-to-rags story of an African-American woman who overcomes her humble beginning, becomes arrogant in her success, and takes a dramatic fall back to where she started. Nottage has received a number of prestigious awards for her playwriting, including a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship in . Undine runs a public relations PR firm, and is working on a client project as her assistant Stephie is madly trying to find someone fabulous to accompany her to a major event that night. Undine wants someone who will help her make a great entrance, but Stephie is having trouble making it happen. Her account has been emptied, and she should seriously consider filing for bankruptcy. Shocked, Undine continues to treat everyone around her with little respect and speak tersely to them. The accountant continues to try to get through to her, but Undine digs in her heels, insisting that she will not give up her business. The agent also explains that their research has shown no record of an Undine Barnes Calles until fourteen years prior to that day. He says, "you seem to have materialized from ether. She explains that she came from a humble background, acquired excellent schooling, and broke from her past to become the owner of a "fierce boutique PR firm catering to the vanity and confusion of the African American nouveau riche. Then Undine grabs her chest and yells for Stephie. SCENE 2 When the next scene opens, Undine is talking to her doctor and learns that she did not have a heart attack , just a severe anxiety attack. She tells him that her husband left her, she is broke, and she is going to have to close her successful business. The doctor tries to cheer her up with the good news that she is pregnant, to which she responds by addressing the audience directly again. She talks more about her relationship with Herve, how exciting it was when they met and fell in love. Although she had been dating a washed-up rapper, Herve was more sophisticated and more in line with the image she was working so hard to establish for herself. It has already been covered in the paper, and Undine is furious with Herve and humiliated for herself. Alison is the only friend who has not totally abandoned her, and Undine tells the audience that Alison also changed her name when she achieved success and wealth outside of Harlem, where she was reared. When Undine asks if she can stay with Alison, she is subtly turned away with shaky promises of having dinner together soon. The priest says that Undine has angered the god Elegba, and he wants her to go home in order to appease him and give him a thousand dollars

and a bottle of rum. Undine decides she has nothing to lose, so she pays the money and makes plans to return to Brooklyn to see her family. Her mother is welcoming, but her brother, Flow, mocks her for distancing herself from them when she was so successful in the city. He is clearly bitter. Undine asks him how his epic poem about Brer Rabbit is going, and although he has been working on it for years, he insists that he is still going to finish it. Undine tells the audience that Flow had been successful in the military, but came back from Desert Storm changed. Undine tells her mother she does not know how long she will need to be there, and her mother tells her she will have to sleep with her grandmother. Undine is fine with that. Undine tries to talk to her father, who speaks in a distant way about a man in the neighborhood who solved a prize-winning math problem, but was killed before he could collect the money. Undine turns to the audience and tells about her family. Although she told all of her friends in New York City that her family was killed in a fire, her parents actually had wanted to be on the police force, but were not able to pass the exams. So they became security guards at a university. Her grandmother talks about how she wishes Undine had not left the family the way she did, and that the tension at home was not as bad as Undine makes it out to be. Then Undine learns that her grandmother has been using heroin to make herself feel better. When Undine asks her mother if she knows, she dismisses the idea. The grandmother convinces Undine to go get more drugs for her, and while Undine is in the middle of the deal, the police arrive. Undine is placed under arrest. SCENE 6 In jail, Undine meets a harsh woman who tries to start something with her, and another woman who tells Undine just to ignore the other inmate. She then asks Undine if this was her first time as a prostitute, and Undine tells her that is not why she is there at all, that it was just a misunderstanding. The inmate then tells Undine how a guy was looking at her wrong and talking nasty to her, so she attacked him and was arrested. When Undine goes before the judge, she is sentenced to a drug program that she must attend or face a year in prison. The other addicts are talking about their struggles with addiction, and one man, Guy, tries to encourage them to enjoy the peace of being clean. Undine remarks that the irony is that the descriptions of crack by the addicts make her want to try it. When pushed to share her own story, Undine makes up a story of addiction and even manages to cry. Guy encourages her to look at her pregnancy not as a burden, but as an opportunity to learn. Undine is intrigued by him, and accepts his invitation to a date. On the date, he tells her that he is a security guard at a movie theater, but that he wants to be a firefighter. She tells him that she once had a successful PR firm. He tells her how much he respects her for her battle against addiction and her preparing to be a single mom. He wants to see her again, but she says it is not a good idea. He always stays positive, and Undine tells the audience, "His sincerity is sickening," while also admitting that everything that makes him so different from Herve makes him appealing. Although Undine tries to avoid them, they see her and talk briefly about the roads their lives have taken. Rosa is still living in the projects, and Devora has moved into the city after becoming a financial planner. Devora had heard of an Undine who was a PR executive, but does not realize that it was the same Undine. As Devora leaves, Rosa mentions social services, and Undine calls it "the most dreaded part of the system. They argue over forms and the length of the line until Undine escalates the argument to the point that the case worker has Undine taken by paramedics to a psychiatric hospital. They give her antipsychotic drugs she can not take because of her pregnancy, and Undine still has to face social services the next day to get the right form. The doctor informs Undine that she is farther along in her pregnancy than she thought. SCENE 5 Undine goes to a drug store in an entirely different neighborhood because it is such a nice store. She runs into Stephanie, who is working there while she looks for a better job. Undine is embarrassed to see Stephanie. When Stephanie leaves, Undine finds her vitamins, shoplifts them, and heads home. SCENE 6 Back at home, Flow is talking about a shoplifter at his store that he tried to turn around with a moving speech about making better choices to honor the heritage of African Americans. Then he teases Undine about how big she is and her name, and their mother scolds them both for being childish. Undine is frustrated because someone called for her, but neither parent nor the grandmother remembers anything about the call or the caller. Flow recites his partially completed poem, and the family listens. When he is done, they talk about how they saw the article about Undine where she said her family had died in a fire. She claims it was a misunderstanding, but they know better. Undine addresses the audience with general questions about her life, and then announces that the authorities caught up to Herve. He asks whose baby it is, and she releases her anger on him. She accuses him

of being a selfish user, and he accuses her of being closed off to the world. He tells her that if she wants him to be there for her delivery, he will. She admits to being confused and angry with the world, and accepts his offer. She is reluctant to bring a child into this world, but when she releases her hesitation, the baby comes out. She is married to an exciting, sophisticated man, and she seems to have completely overcome her humble beginnings in the Brooklyn projects. She has changed her name from Sharona to the more refined Undine, become a mover and shaker, and has even made up a story about her family dying in a fire, but she learns that she cannot truly change the truth of her past. When her husband turns out to be a criminal and a thief who leaves her alone, pregnant, and penniless, Undine returns home to face the family and community she abandoned. Her pride makes her return difficult, and she is defensive and judgmental. But in crisis, she opens her heart and looks at herself more closely. She then grows strong in a way she could not have understood in her former life. When her business and money are gone, so are her friends and connections.

2: Fabulation by Lynn Nottage at Signature Theatre in New York

Fabulation is a darkly comic rags-to-riches-to-rags tale of falling down and reaching up to find the goodness within. A L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring: Daniel Breaker, Saidah Arrika Ekulona, Jon Matthews, Gary Perez, Melle Powers, Myra Lucretia Taylor, John Wesley and Charlayne Woodard.

Undine Barnes Calles - Charlayne Woodard A self-made woman bumps roughly down the social ladder in this lively, loose-limbed satiric fable from Lynn Nottage. Directed with an unnecessary extra scoop of archness by Kate Whoriskey, the play trips lightly through its soapy, riches-to-rags scenario. More Reviews Album Reviews: But for all its sitcom simplicities, the play is clever and consistently entertaining, stocked with funny set pieces deftly played by a zesty ensemble cast. Undine, who runs her own PR and event-planning firm, is having a particularly tough day in the celebrity-wrangling trenches. He has, however, left behind a goody bag. Suddenly, this gleaming advertisement for upward mobility, African-American-style, finds herself transformed into a less glamorous stereotype: She is, somewhat improbably, forced to return to the lower-middle-class family home in Brooklyn, where she is soon being hailed on the street by old friends who remember her as Sharona. Undine had officially dispatched her relatives to the flames years before in a magazine profile describing the tragic fire that conveniently consumed her deprived past. You want to turn down the volume even on the ever-alluring Woodard. The intimidating characters Undine shares a cell with one night have surprising stories to go with their rap sheets. Nottage sometimes stretches a little too far into absurdity to subvert stereotype – the wheelchair-bound grandma addicted to heroin, for example. And Woodard is always a naturally engaging presence, radiating warmth even when Undine is at her most preposterous. Nottage allows Undine to retain her acerbic sense of dismay even as she regains her moral grounding. The sneaky little moral: Sometimes snobbery can be a vehicle for social justice. A Playwrights Horizons presentation of a play in two acts by Lynn Nottage. Directed by Kate Whoriskey. Artistic director, Tim Sanford. Opened, reviewed June 13, Want to read more articles like this one? Subscribe to Variety Today.

3: Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Undine is a quick-witted, sharp-tongued and incredibly successful businesswoman who rules every aspect of her world in downtown Manhattan. That is until her "perfect" husband suddenly disappears, running off with all of her money.

4: Fabulation, Or, the Re-Education of Undine by Lynn Nottage

Fabulation or, The Re-Education of Undine is a full-length seriocomedy by Lynn Nottage. Knocked-up and seriously broke, a successful publicist is plunged into a topsy-turvy world of welfare mothers and drug addicts, and forced to confront the family she left behind.

5: Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine Tickets | Off-Broadway Tickets | www.enganchecubano.com

now extended through January 6, ! Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage (Sweat, Ruined) begins her Residency 1 at Signature with Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine, directed by Obie Award-winner Lileana Blain-Cruz.

6: Fabulation or, The Re-Education of Undine (Play) Plot & Characters | StageAgent

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7: Lynn Nottage's Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine Extends at Signature | Playbill

FABULATION OR THE RE-EDUCATION OF UNDINE pdf

Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine, although published in by Dramatists Play Service, was first produced in It is an unusual rags-to-riches-to-rags.

8: Fabulation or the Re-Education of Undine - University of Louisville

Fabulation is a darkly comic rags-to-riches-to-rags tale of falling down and reaching up to find the goodness within. A L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring: Daniel Breaker, Saidah A Knocked-up and seriously broke, a successful publicist is plunged into a topsy-turvy world of welfare mothers and drug addicts, and forced to.

9: Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine : Playwrights Horizons

Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine will play a limited engagement through December Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine Lynn Nottage's satire reveals how difficult it is to outrun.

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