

1: 'the dreamer examines his pillow' | a CurtainUp review

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Hail to you, O my refrigerator. Is myself in you? Can this be right? The clownish characters should have been a giveaway. The off-kilter dialogue as well, if a little less so. But where were the laughs? Hidden under angst and anger, moaning and groaning, delivered at a screeching decibels. In other words, nowhere to be found. It starts with Tommy sitting in a decrepit one-room apartment with whitewashed walls and a morbid self-portrait with a slash of red where one of the eyes should be. The room is barely furnished: With a pained expression that never leaves his face, Tommy looks as rundown as his surroundings. And even more shouting. It seems like not a line is delivered at normal volume. There are actually some funny lines in this scene but they get drowned out by the noise. Several times they end up in a compromising position, but one of them – that would be Donna – breaks off. Finally, Donna, for reasons also not fully clear What else is new? Donna shows up in a wedding dress. Both works are whimsical, but dreamer. It confuses abrasive with funny. And it only occasionally finds a way to connect its rough-and-tumble characters to laughs. The crucial first scene, which not only sets the stage but also constitutes the essence of the play, is all on one note. A little variety would have served it well. As Donna, Cipoletti is an explosion of energy. Parlato makes a fine, sagacious Dad. Would that he had some erudition to share. You have to wonder what made the Attic Theater Company revive this second rate work from a playwright whose oeuvre contains so much better work.

2: The Dreamer Examines His Pillow | Samuel French

"The Dreamer Examines His Pillow" continues through Aug. 15 at the Flea Theater, Manhattan; , www.enganchecubano.com

He has electrified Berkshire audiences these past two seasons for his Othello. Casting him as Dad in the Shanley play, resulted in two other black actors, the daughter Donna, Miriam Hyman, and troubled boyfriend Tommy, Bowman Wright. Since the premiere of the play it has regularly been performed by white actors. In that sense the play is not about ethnicity although this production compels us to consider the race of the characters. We observe how they present themselves, the special flavor and intensity of language that is conveyed in their crisis. This a very wordy and poetic play. The decision to cast Thompson as the fulcrum of this drama was bold and brilliant. The measure, cadence, ebb and flow of the delivery come with a compelling naturalism. Not to say that this is method acting. Rather it is the performance of a classically trained actor bringing all of that skill and discipline to a contemporary character. He gives them a more refined sense of timing and pace. They both seemed to slow down and settle into their thoughts. We were more drawn into who they were and the nature and burden of their conundrums. They are more adept at elevating than subduing their emotions. In their scenes with Thompson it was most effective when they backed off. This was a true litmus of their craft and maturity as actors. There is ersatz wall with broken plaster revealing cinder block. Cloud like shapes are hanging here and there. On the largest, amoeba like form is stuck, nailed, a primitively drawn "Self Portrait. But he has no talent. Especially compared to Dad a successful artist who no longer paints. From time to time Tommy worships and speaks to his refrigerator. It is where he keeps the beer but also the source of the dark hole of memory. Or, in the trope of the title of the play, his dreams. In one passage he screams at the refrigerator as a portal to God. It seems he found God on the battlefield Vietnam? After his opening delusional and disturbing soliloquy Donna arrives banging loudly on the door. He is reluctant to let anyone in. This dungeon, cave, shit hole, studio is where, in solitude, he faces his demons and is struggling to find a muse through art. Charging in Donna is a firebrand of intensity polarizing love as well as hate. The physical craving for him drives her to the edge of madness. Donna is fighting to control this passion. She forces him to confess that he has been "porking" her sixteen year old sister in the year since they broke up. How can you do that to me she wants to know? We wonder just what she sees in the lost and confused Tommy. He appears to be a worthless piece of turd much like the apartment he lives in. There is no sense of ambition and responsibility. What can he possibly offer of value? Yet, love is blind. Stage hands morph the set. In the semi darkness we see the "clouds" come down. The bed is collapsed back into a couch which is covered in a white slipcase. There is a clean white rug rolled out and a few props of tables and chairs. Donna arrives to seek advice from her estranged father. He is seated on the couch in a red bathrobe drinking in solitude. When she arrives he insists that she remove her shoes. This conveys the notion that while alone, by choice, and drinking to drown demons Dreams and misery, he is controlled and disciplined. Following the death of his wife, whom he cheated on and abused, his life and career have imploded. He is no longer able to paint. But a cache of paintings have been sold leaving him well off. It allows him to afford self imposed exile. Shanley is fascinated with him as an artist and the issues of the rise and fall of his creativity. The work was inspired, initially, by a search for self and identity and, just as forcefully, evaporated through disillusionment, contempt, and self pity. As Donna comes to her father with mixed feelings she seeks his love, support and insight. They have not been together for a couple of years. He is ill-equipped for any of this. It means that he will have to abandon his slow suicide through alcohol and actually care about another human being; his daughter. He has wonderful lines about that burden and misery. She hates him for what he did to her mother. Her lover is terribly like her father. It is all too common that women fall for men like their fathers. Donna demands that her father will answer three questions: Love, sex, and why he no longer paints. The father evolves as an oracle. He is indeed wise and replete with hard earned, life experience. Her quest draws him back from the edge of despair. The daughter in turn reminds him of his lost wife. It seems he loved her too much. The sex was devouring and so consuming that he risked losing himself in passion for her. Is this an

instance of vagina dentata? His answer is that "sex is for making babies. Interestingly these are emotions that Thompson explores in "Othello. Until he awoke from a dream when his wife was ill and just threw her out. It was when he "examined his pillow. Having asked her questions, Donna now demands that Dad will confront Tommy. If he finds that the boyfriend is like him, her greatest fear, she wants Dad to beat him up. In their scene together Dad and Tommy are indeed alike. It is a quest that is just beginning for Tommy but now ended for Dad. The arc is there compellingly. Having made that discovery and revelation what will now happen to Donna? Expect to be shocked and surprised. We staggered out of the theatre dazed, shocked, confused and provoked.

3: The Dreamer Examines His Pillow - John Patrick Shanley - Google Books

â€”NY Magazine. " a philosophic dream-comedy about love, marriage, and maturity." â€”Village Voice. " Mr. Shanley is a born playwright " â€”The New Yorker.

Next in my Daily Book Excerpt: Next play on the script shelf: More John Patrick Shanley! The next play in the collection is the dreamer examines his pillow. First of all, I just love that title. Fascinating â€” I know many Shanley fans who call dreamer examines his pillow their favorite of his plays. There are three characters â€” Tommy, Donna, and Dad. Tommy and Donna once had a torrid love affair. Well â€” not torrid. Tommy has now broken off with Donna, and is going out with her 16 year old sister Mona. Not only that but he robbed his mother of money, and is living in a filthy apartment, and appears to be losing his mind. The play opens with Donna coming over to confront him about this. The next scene is Donna going to confront her father, who was not a very good father â€” cheated on her mother, etc. But she goes there to ask for his aid in dealing with the situation. What should be done about Mona seeing a 27 year old guy? The scene between Donna and the father is so wonderful â€” and that will be what I excerpt from. Well, inna couple a ways. His name is Tommy. So go kiss him or somethin. So then go talk to him. I just did that. He looks like shit. But all that I can deal with. Even the Mona thing, I think. But this is the thing. In the whole way that this has come down, I thought I knew what I was doin. The me part of it. Another like level came into it. I always heard that girls went after guys who reminded em of their fathers. A thought that makes me think a the phrase, Fate Worse Than Death. Anyways, I always steered clear of this certain kinda guy for that reason. Like this guy Tommy. This guy your seein? A really lousy picture, self-picture. But it scared me. I heard the fuckin Twilight Zone music. An then I see this picture. Or am I just a complete molecule or some shit. Is this my pain? You treated my mother like shit. You cheated on her. You lied to her. You humiliated her in public. When she had money, you took it. You walked on her face with muddy shoes. And then finally she just fuckin died. I even thought, Maybe she deserved it. But that was before. What you have are women fears. You got women fears. Do you wanna hear this or not? Women are very concerned about bein trapped. All women, or virtually, anyway. So what they do, a lot of em, to feel strong, they trap a man. They trap some guy in their dream. And then they feel trapped cause they gotta guard what they caught. At least let me say, this is what happened with me an your mother. What happens with men is a little different. I think that men recognize or make up that they are trapped, already, an what they do is, the man feeling is, they long to be free. Of mother, wife, job, art, whatever. Do you hear yourself? You sound like a total jerk. So my suggestion about that is, you go talk to a woman about that. I feel I feel this this rising thing like a yell a flame. My hair I can feel my hair like slowly going up on its toes on my skull my skull. Like to an ocean. To hold the size of it. And then I come back. From such a long way. And such a different size. My body my hair. The bed is just soaked, torn up and soaked. My eyes are the size of like two black pools of water in the middle of an endless night. And he did it to me. He took me completely. I was just a blast a light out in the stars. What could be better than that? What could be better? In the world where we talk and fight and he fucks me over, it all just seems so unimportant after that. It is a small world this world, in comparison to where we go in bed. And I guess we gotta be smaller in it. What are you tryin to tell me, Donna? Everything else seems like nothin next to it. But that seems like a woman thing to me. Men have that too. And in another way, what he knows is the key that lets me outta my life. I had this with your mother. And too, because I wanted to protect what we had in bed by havin somethin else goin that was not that intense. Somethin common to underline the extraordinary. Your mother was the love of my life. That bed was what we had. When I got outta that bed the most important thing was that my feet hit the ground, found the fuckin ground. If there was gonna be anything else a me outside a that bed, it hadda be without her. Otherwise, she woulda taken me over all the way. I hadda create a second place in me and outta me where I could work. I got the studio. I got the girlfriend. You mean, you really loved her? Shut up shut up.

4: www.enganchecubano.com: The Dreamer Examines His Pillow (): John Patrick Shanley: Books

the dreamer examines his pillow has ratings and 5 reviews. Lise said: a poor man's fool for love. still great. had a lot of fun playing donna in the.

Tommy David Atkinson is an unshaven, slack-jawed wastrel of 27 who lounges around in rump-sprung jeans contemplating his self-portrait. Donna Joan Jurige is a similarly untidy young woman who wears crumpled cocktail dresses with slippers and no stockings. Then she kisses him passionately and says she loves him. She leaves, Tommy starts to get himself another beer--and has a vision. This vision involves some vaguely Dantean imagery--swimming through boiling water, reaching into black holes. The light that Tommy sees appears to be the one in the refrigerator, which makes his description of the vision rather hard for us to hear. In scene two, Donna exchanges good-natured abuse with her father, a retired artist Ken Mitten. Smiling remarks like "I foresee your ass with a foot in it, and the foot has my shoe on it" are the predominant mode of affectionate expression in this play. At this point a good father would say: He agrees to go straighten Tommy out. Tommy thinks he has already been straightened out by his vision, which directed him to look out for number one. The kids are scared, but Dad reassures them by saying: You gotta make big mistakes, but sex resurrects. Those of us on our way from 40 to 50 are beginning to see tragic examples of what happens to old romantics. Shanley too is old enough to know better than to claim that fucking and fighting constitute the definition of life. Romance in any form is essentially irresponsible, and therefore the province of the very rich, the very poor, and the very young. Donna and Tommy are none of these. My eyes are like two black pools of water. The Penguin Island actors struggle bravely with dialogue that resembles long, didactic, metaphysical monologues stuck together. These characters never seem to talk to one another but are too often reduced to expressionless recitations, punctuated by a shout or two. They talk, talk, talk about their deep, intense, tempestuous feelings without one sign that such things are going on inside them. The Penguin Island company claims to be interested in theater that "speaks in a savage tongue."

THE DREAMER EXAMINES HIS PILLOW pdf

5: The Dreamer Examines His Pillow by John P Shanley (Paperback,) | eBay

Fascinating - I know many Shanley fans who call dreamer examines his pillow their favorite of his plays. It's a three-scene play - about 30 pages long. There are three characters - Tommy, Donna, and Dad.

You used to be clean, Tommy. This is the new me. The two argue and replay the chaotic events of their relationship. The second scene is between Donna and her artist father, Dad, at his apartment where the two relive their troubled relationship and discuss her romantic situation. This play originally opened Off-Broadway in October , and ran for 40 performances. The next year the film Moonstruck was released for which Mr. Though similar in structure and themes to many of his successful other works, the dreamer examines his pillow is not as satisfying. Lauren Nicole Cipoletti as Donna has the challenging task of appearing in most of the play. She winningly sustains vocal volume, emotional intensity, and comic timing, as well as an authentic New York City outer borough accent. Cipoletti exudes all of the sensuality, tempestuousness, and emotional fragility of the character with her forceful characterization and rich performance. Natalie Artemyeff The mature and lithe Dennis Parlato gives a sly and pitch-perfect portrayal as Dad. Veering from low-key and reflective, to explosive, Mr. That he actually looks like a Bohemian artist with his regal mane of white hair and goatee, adds even more depth to his very fine acting qualities. Scruffy, starry-eyed and boyish, the very charming Shane Patrick Kearns wonderfully captures the volatility and aching romantic sensibility of the young artist Tommy. The chemistry between Mr. Cipoletti is very evident and together they convey all of the intended passion and sensitivity of their characters. He is also hilarious and touching while delivering eloquent monologues to an old refrigerator. Working with such a problematic script, director Laura Braza does an excellent job of theatrically realizing the play with brisk pacing, inspired physical staging, and sharp work with the actors. The contained, boxy and appropriately detailed settings are highly crafted by scenic designer Julia Noulín-Merat. This first official revival of the dreamer examines his pillow is a fitfully compelling event, nobly demonstrating that despite the characteristically ravishing writing, this early work by John Patrick Shanley is an imperfect literary curio. There was a dent there where my head had been. And I thought, never put your head in that hole again.

6: John Patrick Shanley's The Dreamer Examines His Pillow - Berkshire Fine Arts

John Patrick Shanley went on to great things in the 20 years since he wrote "The Dreamer Examines His Pillow." But to protect his rep, he should consign this infantile exercise in narcissism to a.

7: the dreamer examines his pillow - Attic Theater Company

The Dreamer Examines His Pillow. Reviewed by Neal Weaver The Lounge Theatre Through September 24 RECOMMENDED: John Patrick Shanley is practically unique among American playwrights in that although he has consistently hewed to a distinctly personal vision and style, he has achieved impressive commercial success as a screenwriter (Moonstruck, Doubt) and a director (Doubt).

8: The Dreamer Examines His Pillow (edition) | Open Library

The Dreamer Examines His Pillow is John Patrick Shanley's version of that famous plot: boy meets girl, boy meets girl's sister, girl runs to daddy, daddy trashes boy. The script includes a few.

9: The Dreamer Examines His Pillow | Performing Arts Review | Chicago Reader

"An amazing, intense and thought-provoking play. Featuring an excellent cast and well directed by Mark Blanchard!" - DISCOVER HOLLYWOOD MAGAZINE A striking, surreal study of the often bizarre byways that love between men and

THE DREAMER EXAMINES HIS PILLOW pdf

women can follow. Told in three related scenes, the play uses indirection.

Diary of Beatrice Webb 1924-1943 The little treasury of golf Basketball (Brown, Jonatha a. My Favorite Sport.) Govt job application form Kumon math workbooks grade 4 Farm animals chapter 1 Discourse Description Sin (a Cardinal deposed) Performance testing life cycle Lurzers Archive Special Catalogs Brochures 1 A bear in war Hidden from view, and other stories Esherick, Maloof, Nakashima Reel 34. F260-F416 7: THE 1ST BATTALION AT DEN HEUVEL 45 Lithuanian-Ruscommonwealth, the Polish domination, and the Cossack-Hetman state Pediatric asthma quality of life questionnaire paqlq Principles of fluid management Days of a fledgling Annotations on Miltons Paradise lost by P.H. [i.e. Patrick Hume (1695). Exorcism understanding exorcism in scripture and practice Graphing polynomial functions worksheets Future of assessment Trustee of Vassar, Teachers College Prehistoric Walkers of the Southwest Evening sun turned crimson Revolutionaries of Asia and Africa Sequoyah, Cherokee hero Ambari archaeological site Instructors resource guide to accompany Fit and well Kregel Pictorial Guide To Church History, Volume 2 The island of the Ud. Community project The theory of knowledge by maurice cornforth ABC of Stock Speculation Chroniclers and commentators: a question of inference Nomination of Henry Cisneros The fish shellfish cuisine I love Green Shakespeare Too late for logic