

Unveiling That Face: A Gripping Exploration of Family Dysfunction and the Search for Identity

Polly Stenham's "That Face" is a powerful and haunting play that delves into the complexities of family dysfunction, mental illness, and the search for identity. This award-winning drama paints a vivid portrait of a family torn apart by secrets, manipulation, and the devastating effects of mental illness.

The Story: A Tangled Web of Relationships

The play revolves around the Weston family, a看似典型的 suburban unit whose façade of normalcy masks a web of deep-rooted dysfunction. The patriarch, Henry, is a manipulative and emotionally abusive alcoholic. His wife, Martha, a former actress, is slowly losing her grip on reality, struggling with depression and paranoia. Their three children, Mia, Izzy, and Alex, are all deeply affected by their parents' dysfunctional relationship.



That Face by Polly Stenham

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 356 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 100 pages

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As the play progresses, the line between reality and illusion blurs. Mia, the eldest child, becomes increasingly detached from her family and retreats into her own world of fantasies. Izzy, the middle child, acts out in rebellion against her parents' authority, desperately seeking attention and love. Alex, the youngest, is a sensitive and withdrawn child who witnesses the chaos unfolding around him with growing fear and confusion.

The Characters: Complex and Compelling

Stenham's characters are complex and deeply human. Each family member harbors hidden wounds and insecurities, and their interactions are a constant clash of emotions and conflicting desires. Henry's manipulative behavior is both infuriating and pitiable, as we glimpse moments of vulnerability beneath his harsh exterior.



Martha's descent into madness is both heartbreaking and terrifying. Her delusions and hallucinations provide a glimpse into the fragility of the human mind, and her desperate attempts to escape her inner turmoil are both poignant and unsettling.



The children, Mia, Izzy, and Alex, are each affected by their parents' dysfunction in different ways. Mia's withdrawal into fantasy is a desperate attempt to escape the emotional turmoil of her family life. Izzy's rebellious behavior is a cry for attention and love, while Alex's sensitivity and withdrawal reveal the deep wounds inflicted by his parents' neglect.

The Themes: A Journey of Self-Discovery

Beneath the surface of the family drama, "That Face" explores profound themes of identity, mental illness, and the search for connection. The characters are all on a journey of self-discovery, struggling to come to terms with who they are and their place in the world.

The play raises important questions about the nature of mental illness and its devastating effects on individuals and families. It also examines the

complex dynamics of family relationships, the ways in which we can both hurt and heal each other, and the enduring search for love and connection.

The Impact: A Visceral and Unforgettable Experience

"That Face" is a visceral and unforgettable experience that will stay with you long after the final curtain call. Stenham's writing is raw, honest, and unflinching, and her characters are so deeply human that they leap off the page and into your heart.

This award-winning play has been praised by critics and audiences alike for its powerful storytelling, its compelling characters, and its unflinching exploration of family dysfunction. It is a must-read for anyone interested in psychology, family relationships, or simply the human condition.



Don't miss out on this gripping and thought-provoking play. Free Download your copy of "That Face" by Polly Stenham today and embark on a journey that will challenge your perceptions and leave a lasting impact on your soul.

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