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LOOK BACK IN ANGER - That Theatre Company...

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LOOK BACK IN ANGER is a realistic "kitchen-sink" drama written by John Osborne in 1956. The story focuses on the marital struggle between 2 young intelligent, educated people and the intense challenges thrown up by their class divide. Jimmy Porter is proudly working class and his wife is upper middle class. It's a love story where this couple feels trapped and have little hope of ever seemingly being able to find real happiness. Osborne was one of the pioneers of this realistic theatre form.

The pain and sense of futility is reminiscent of Strindberg, but there is more at stake here. England's younger generation was trying to push ahead and progress, but was feeling trapped by its past and its older generation felt overwhelmed by the speed of change and hankered for the good old days.

That Theatre Company has assembled an incredibly strong cast for **LOOK BACK IN ANGER**. Apart from Ian Burns the rest of the team are Danish actors who trained in England or the U.S. Søren Højen, educated at Stella Adler School in New York and at the Acting School in Odense Theatre is phenomenal as the angry young man, Jimmy Porter. A working class boy who somehow managed to get a college education but who threw it away to run a sweet shop and who feels trapped in a toxic marriage. He looks back because there seems very little to look forward to. He takes his frustrations out on the people he loves most, but slowly we get to see the little, unhappy boy, who has seen too much too soon.

Alex Jespersen plays his wife who tolerates her husband's mood swings, but who one day, finally snaps. She delivers a frighteningly good portrait of a woman who has married "beneath her" and who is hanging on by her fingernails. There's always something going on under the surface in her performance, even when she's ironing shirts she shares a thought or a feeling. As her world begins to crumble I sat with tears in my eyes. It's a breakthrough for this 22 year old and I'm looking forward to seeing her in anything she does in the future.

Peter Vinding is lovely as Welshman Cliff, the kind, loyal and jovial best friend of Jimmy who acts as a buffer between the warring couple, until he too has enough and leaves.

Helle Kristiansen is sweet, sexy and dangerous as Alison's girlfriend, the actress Helena. Ian Burns, one of the founders of That Theatre Company is good in a small but sadly not very nuanced role as Alison's father, the old Colonel who dreams of an England that doesn't exist anymore.

That Theatre Company has brought English director, Helen Parry, to Denmark to direct this production and she has done an excellent job.

She has chosen to set the performance in its original time-setting and doesn't draw attention the England we see today, but Brexit is always there lurking under the surface in this social-realistic narrative of the class divisions that existed in the 1950's.

The play starts off slowly and sometimes feels a tad too long, but Sundays in England in the 50's were pretty boring apparently. However. In the 2nd Act the pace picks up dramatically. There's something wonderfully intimate about witnessing this social-realistic drama in the small theatre space that is Krudttønden, where the action really unfolds before you. You feel that you're sharing the living room with the characters. This is an absolutely must-see performance.

LOOK BACK IN ANGER plays at Krudttønden till 23. november 2019 and lasts 2 hours and 15 minutes including an interval..

TEXT: John Osborne DIRECTOR: Helen Parry COSTUMES: Hanna Mørup LIGHTING DESIGN: Julian Simpson SOUND DESIGN: Mark Jones SCENOGRAPHY: The TTC Team WITH: Søren Højen, Alex Jespersen, Helle Kristiansen, Peter Vinding and Ian Burns