



## JAC'S VIEW of *AMY'S VIEW* ... a director's thoughts:

Nothing is more thrilling than exceptional characters moved through extraordinary circumstances by a powerful plot. That's what kind of a show *Amy's View* is.

*Amy's View*, David Hare's prizewinning drama covers sixteen years – between 1979 and 1995. His story, centering on the small family of a famous theatrical actress, is skillfully set against the swirling backdrop of British politics, world economy, and ruthless media exploitations. Esme Allen is talented, admired and managing a life in London theatre. She believes in theatre – in Art. Her daughter, Amy, passionately believes in her new boyfriend, Dominic. He's a bit rough around the edges, more than a little opportunistic, and overtly hostile to the pretensions of artists. Still, he has ambitions to shake up the world he criticizes. And, he's sexy.

Two other characters circulate around Esme, her sometimes exasperating mother-in-law, Evelyn, and Esme's financial advisor (and would-be suitor) Frank. Using this small family, the playwright details an avalanche of changing circumstances that push and pull on each character's life trajectory.

As hard-to-please *New Yorker* critic John Simon wrote:

“You may want to know what David Hare's *Amy's View* is about. Hard to answer -- the best I can do is: It's about life. About mothers and daughters, husbands and wives, human relations. It is about the childlike artist and the diligent worker; about theater versus real life; about art versus pseudo-art (TV, action movies); about being right but ultimately wrong, or wrong but ultimately proven right. *It is about the lure and pitfalls of a materialistic society, about whether love and faith and perseverance will prevail over hedonism and greed or be unjustly punished. It is, I repeat, about life.*

Being about life, it is about surprises all the way: big surprises that the author springs on us quasi-casually, and leaves not fully explained. Amy's eponymous view assumes different meanings in the course of the play, yet all are attempts at a clearer perception, truer understanding of our existence. Does this come about? You tell me.

It would be an insult to this multifarious play to reveal more. It defies easy summary, prompt evaluation. You must pay close attention to details, and think long after.”

If all this sounds like “heavy lifting” for audiences, I've led you astray. Terrific actors are here to help! It takes a cadre of six accomplished actors to power this play to its full emotional revelations, and it's been my honor to work with six great truth tellers to prepare this production for Theatre Three. My sincerest thanks to each in the cast, and especially to author David Hare for this beautiful, tall dramatic mountain he's given us to climb.

**JAC ALDER**, director, *Amy's View*, Theatre Three, Dallas.