



## Entertainment :: Theatre

### Amy's View

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Connie Coit in Amy's View

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What if we as children were promised we would be loved unconditionally by our parents? What if we as children absolutely accepted this concept? What would we do as adults if we were forced to put this concept to the test only to discover our parents couldn't fulfill their promise?

Likewise, what is our responsibility when someone makes a decision? Do we accept it or do we have a right to challenge it? Further, what about our own decisions? If we make decisions that could have potentially disastrous consequences, are the rewards worth the risks? Even if the odds are stacked against us, should that prevent us from trying? Heavy themes. Yet these are only the most obvious of many themes running

through English playwright Sir David Hare's **Amy's View** now playing at Theatre Three.

Esme is a successful theater actress living a comfortable life outside London. She arrives home from the theater one night to find her daughter Amy and her hunky new beau Dominic in her living room. Esme and Dominic take an instant dislike to one another and dissolve into an argument over the relevance of the theater versus emerging forms of technology and art. Amy meanwhile, whose only desire is that the two most important people in her life get along, finds herself caught in the middle. Over the course of 16 years (1979 - 1995) and four acts, these three characters torment each other as they follow their principled decisions, or perhaps their decisive prejudices.

Under the sure-handed direction of Theatre Three Executive Producer/Director Jac Alder, the play is a skillfully acted, thought-provoking dramedy that lingers with you long after the final bows. With a few tweaks, the play could easily be called "Esme's World" as Esme not only is the catalyst that propels the play into action but she appears in nearly every scene. Theatre Three Vet Connie Coit can convey as much with a single glance as she can with the considerable dialogue of the talky, self-centered Esme. It's a first-rate performance. Kevin Moore as Dominic oozes sex appeal and arrogance (but whoever chose to make him wear that ridiculous wig in Act 1 should be spanked). The real revelation for this reviewer was Danielle Pickard as Amy. Pale, blonde and lithe in stature, her appearance and demeanor in the opening scene did not prepare me for her dramatic range culminating with her raw, bare, explosive scene in Act III. This is a star turn.

Rounding out this accomplished ensemble were Terry McCracken's gleeful comic relief as Esme's mother-in-law, Sonny Franks as Esme's pivotal financial adviser and would-be suitor and Jason Kennedy as the eager young actor who bridges the gap between Esme and Dominic's feud over art. Ms. Coit, Mr. Moore, Ms. Pickard and Mr. Franks all deserve a pass on their faux-British accents. These are hard working actors working with demanding, dialogue heavy material.

Amy's View is not neat and tidy; some plot points are left dangling and some seem implausible. We never do get to see or understand Amy's attraction to Dominic and while several of the characters describe "Amy's View" (unconditional love, love conquers all, we should all just get along), we never get to hear the view from Amy herself. Finally, the reconciliation between Dominic and Esme at the close of the play seems unrealistic considering everything we've seen prior.

At one point in the play Esme talks about how she dislikes people who go to the theater because they are told to or think they should. Likewise, Dominic tells us we must take the "should" out of art. I'm going to ignore both and recommend you make your way to Theatre Three to see this extraordinary ensemble of actors provide you with a memorable, haunting evening of theater.

**Amy's View** continues through January 31, 2010 at Theatre Three, 2800 Routh Street, Suite 168, Dallas, TX 75201. For more information visit [Theatre Three's website](#).

*Doug Dodasovich is a playful free lance writer and designer who is passionate about live theater, dance and film. He and his husband, Mark enjoy reading, traveling, friends and family of choice and their 3 miniature dachshunds, Roxie, Velma and Seymour.*

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