

Gerri Garner's Entertainment File.

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“THE ACCOMPLICES”

AT THE FOUNTAIN THEATRE THEY HAVE AN OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION OF FORMER NEW YORK TIMES POLITICAL REPORTER BERNARD WEINRAUB'S STIRRING PLAY “THE ACCOMPLICES”. IT IS THE STORY OF LITHUANIAN HILLEL KOOK (STEVEN SCHUB), WHOSE FAMILY MOVED TO PALESTINE. WHEN WORLD WAR 11 BROKE OUT HE WENT TO NEW YORK CITY, AND GAVE HIMSELF AN AMERICANIZED NAME PETER BERGSON. HE WANTED TO ORGANIZE A JEWISH ARMY TO FIGHT THE ATROCITIES THAT THE GERMANS WERE DOING ALL OVER EUROPE. THIS INSIDE LOOK INTO AMERICAN ATTITUDES DURING THE WAR CERTAINLY HAS THE POWER TO DISTURB. IT IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY THAT AMERICAN JEWS WITH INFLUENCE, AND POWER SAT IDLY BY, I.E. RESPECTED RABBIS, AND EVEN A JEWISH SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY WAS SILENT.

BERGSON ENTERS THE UNITED STATES IN 1941, AND LIVES ON EAST 73 RD STREET IN HIS ROMANIAN FRIEND SAM'S (WILLIAM DENNIS HURLEY) APARTMENT. AT THE SAME TIME IN WASHINGTON BRECKINRIDGE LONG (BRIAN CARPENTER) THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS DISCUSSING WITH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT (JAMES HARPER) THE NEED TO GET CONGRESS TO ALLOW 20 THOUSAND REFUGEE CHILDREN IN. LONG IS THE ANTI-SEMITIC VILLAIN WHO DELAYED, EVEN UPON ORDERS FROM THE PRESIDENT, TO MOVE THINGS ALONG.

THIS IS A BLANKET INDICTMENT OF THE ERA, AND THE PEOPLE IN POWER AT THE TIME. IT IS A PAINFUL, AND OUTRAGEOUS REMINDER OF THE FAILURE TO HALT EVIL BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, RESPECTED JOURNALISTS, EVEN THE LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. THIS IS DEPRESSING, AND A CAUSTIC PILL TO CHEW ON IN LIGHT OF WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE PRESENT U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND THE BLEAK, AND CATASTROPHIC CONDITIONS OCCURRING AROUND THE WORLD. THIS IS A FORCEFUL SOLID TWO HOURS NICELY MOUNTED PRODUCTION, ON TRAVIS GALE LEWIS' VERSATILE 1940'S SET. SHON LEBLANC'S AUTHENTIC COSTUMES, KEN BOOTH'S LIGHTING, AND DAVID B. MARLING'S SOUND DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS THIS TIMELY YET HORRIFYING STORY. DEBORAH LAVINE'S STAGING IS SUPERB WITH SHARP INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE VIVIDLY DRAWN CHARACTERS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THIS ACCOMPLISHED ENSEMBLE OF BRILLIANT ACTORS .

“THE ACCOMPLICES”, AT THE FOUNTAIN THEATRE, 5060 FOUNTAIN AVENUE, PLAYS THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS AT 8, AND SUNDAYS AT 2. FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL AREA CODE (323) 663-1525 OR GO TO THEIR WEB SITE AT WWW.FOUNTAINTHEATRE.COM