

The Apple Family

A rehearsed reading of Richard Nelson's quartet of plays

Cast

Barbara Apple | SELINA CADELL

Benjamin Apple | OLIVER COTTON

Marian Apple | JEMMA REDGRAVE

Tim Andrews | RHASHAN STONE

Richard Apple | OWEN TEALE

Jane Apple | OLIVIA WILLIAMS

Creatives

Director | CLARISSA BROWN

Writer | RICHARD NELSON

Producer | POSTSCRIPT PRODUCTIONS

Author's Note

At the time of their respective premieres, I wrote and published an author's note for each of the four Apple Family plays. The following are edited versions of these four notes. Together, I think, they reflect some of my process and my thinking while writing this series.

That Hopey Changey Thing

We have become used to viewing our politics and our political landscape through the lens of journalists or commentators or, now, comedians. Their observations are certainly invaluable to us and the very best of them struggle valiantly to be a check on vanity, arrogance, ignorance and stupidity. However, what has been missing from our public political forum is the individual's voice. There always seems to be someone or something ready to speak for us – organizations, lobbyists, politicians, talk show hosts and the like; but the voice I hear in my own living room, or on a train, or over dinners at a restaurant, or in my own head, I do not hear anywhere else. This is not to say that I've become so deluded as to have crowned myself the public voice for anyone. My ambition remains much simpler: to put the most complex, complicated people I can on stage and to let them talk about their country today.

Nov. 2, 2010

Sweet and Sad

I have begun to wonder or fantasize that after the (imagined) four plays of this series are completed, that there might be something in putting them all together into one very long evening; the hope being that the very specificity of the plays combined with the over-riding arc of them covering the same people over several years, might tell a rich and compelling story. I'm hoping that these are plays about the need to talk, the need to listen, and the need for theater.

Sept. 11, 2011

Sorry

I'm learning more and more that the ambition of these Apple Family plays is to put characters in a room with an audience, who then can watch them be. To where the private thoughts of the characters, derived often from the very actors playing them, work to make the relation between actor and audience as intimate as relations in real life. To let the audience not only share the same space, but find themselves inside the characters' minds. In other words, to create "the relation by which all important human intimacies exist." And so as I wrote in the note to Sweet and Sad it is my hope that these plays are about the need to talk, the need to listen, the need for theatre, and, I now add, the need to be in the same room together.

Nov. 6, 2012

Regular Singing

I have come to think or at least hope that the plays might have a somewhat longer shelf life and even, when experienced as a group over two or four days, might even add up to something greater than its parts. We can soon see. In my note for Sorry I wrote that it is my hope that these plays are about the need to talk, the need to listen, the need for theatre, and the need to be in the same room together. Maybe it's just saying the same thing another way, but after completing Regular Singing, I want to add that I hope that these plays are also about the need to know, in small and even some bigger ways, that we are not alone.

Nov. 22, 2013

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Jez Bond

Artistic Director

Catherine McKinney

Executive Director

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donors and volunteers.**

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