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Not Enough Rope (program)

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Not Enough Rope

by: Elaine May

February 12 and 13, 1990

Harding University Little Theatre

"What does it matter so long as you're healthy?"

Cast of Characters

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Robert San Juan*^ | Claude |
| Mavenee Mays | Edith |
| Sharon Anderson | Mrs Pierce |
| John D. Folding*^ | Director |
| Dr. Morris Ellis*^ | Advisor/Ass't to the Director |
| Lighting Class | Set-up and run pf lights |

*Campus Players

^Alpha Psi Omega

Program Notes

"...the dignity of man lies in his ability to face reality in all its senselessness; to accept it freely, without fear, without illusions and to laugh at it." -- Michael Esslin

My aim is not to make fun of such a serious topic as suicide, but to run you, the audience, through the ringer and range of emotions that my actors are living right before your eyes. You will laugh, you will get angry, and you might even cry a little. That is my aim.

Thanks to Dr. Ellis for his eternal patience with my questions on lights, set, lights, character, lights, auditions, lights (get the picture?). Thanks to Jan Williams for cracking me up. Thanks to Elizabeth Wilson for donating props (yes, Dippy gets abused!). Thanks to Christy--"Look, I finished a hat!"

To my **INCREDIBLE** cast! You guys are great! From the tape glove to floor kissing to melodrama to sea kelp to spilling coffee to petit fours to Canadian safety clip bracelets and the world's biggest matchbook to "I Before E Except After C" to "Hand Me the Wine and the Dice" to "Get Happy" and all those other countless things you came up with in rehearsal! My highest praise goes to you. Thanks for helping me facilitate my growing style and technique and for being patient through the really strange stuff we did. Without you this show would never have happened!

So many times directors pick a show apart without looking to see the play for its own sake. First, above all, I want you to take in the play as it is--a stirring piece of theatre. Then I want you to look and apply some of the aspects of absurdism to it (irrationality of existence, senselessness/purposeless of life, alienation, character's situations are painful and violent, anxiety, despair, a sense of loss at the disappearance of solutions, illusions, and purpose).

Hey, Dr. Ellis--welcome to my world!

What they have to say...

Robert:

to John: Thanks for allowing me a "last chance" on stage. Thanks for the sea kelp, toilet paper, New Yeak, You Nork, and believe it or not--the music. You helped me learn there's more to life than "getting by."

to Mavenee: Thanks for invading my space, for laughing at me, for helping me to find my own laughter, but especially for your true sincere concern. Thanks.

to Sharon: Thanks for being there when we needed you. You make a great old maid! Call me in 75 years--if you're still free!

to Claude: Thank you so much for letting me know that I'm not what I thought I was, and that I can be more than I thought I was.

Mavenee:

I love Edith. I certainly didn't at first; I didn't understand her. I didn't want to understand her. But after every rehearsal, I found a different way that Edith was being true to herself. She may not play with the full deck we all assume we're playing with, but Edith loves and laughs and wants and hurts wholeheartedly, and doesn't deny herself the life experience. If time is truly the healer of all things, then I guess one day Edith will be normal. Until then, I delight in teh fact that she "has such a thing about words"; God help us to accept what he's given us, and work with it!

Sharon:

I think Mrs. Pierce has had a happy, normal life. She was a devoted wife and mother. Her first child was stillborn...but she had three other children. She loved them very much.

She's 85 years old now. Her children's children are grown and having their own families. Her husband died over 23 years ago. No one comes to see her anymore.

Her feet swell and burn. Her hips won't support her. Arthritis and palsy make even swallowing her medication difficult. Her body is racked with constant pain. It has convinced her that she will die soon. She's waiting to...hoping to...go to sleep and never wake up.

Since encountering Mrs. Pierce, I think I can appreciate my life more. I'm young. I have a lot to look forward to, not just memories to look back on. I'm not in constant pain; in fact, I usually feel pretty good. More importantly, I have more reason for living than my family, my friends, my job, or anything else. Jesus has given me a hope and a purpose. Mrs. Pierce doesn't have that. She's just waiting to die.

Coming Attractions:

The Man in 316February 21 and 22, 1990

Actors.....March 2 and 3, 1990

The Belle of Amherst.....March 28-30, 1990

Doing Poetry with Helen,

Veronica, Sonny and Poor Dead Charlie....TBA