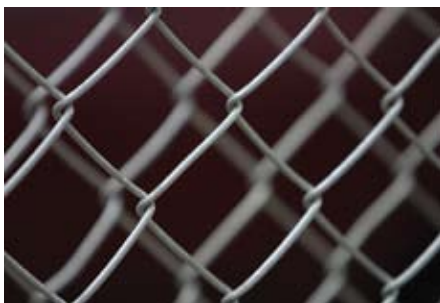


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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
FALL 2008 PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS



The Distance from Here by Neil LaBute



A riveting look at the dark side of American suburbia
Directed by Walt Jones

September 24, 25, 26, 27, 8:00 p.m.

Matinee: September 28, 2:00 p.m.

University Theatre, University Center for the Arts

1400 Remington Street, Fort Collins, Colorado

\$16, \$14/Seniors, \$7/CSU Students

Author Examines Difficult Themes - Comments from the Director

The Distance from Here centers on Darrell and Tim, two teens on the precipice of life...moments from falling into the void of mindless jobs, empty relationships, violence and alcohol infused escapism. Darrel, the late-nineties slacker, spends life smoking, putting up with irresponsible parents, wallowing in idleness and dating Jenn. Tim is a slightly-less slacking breed of slacker with a job. Darrell is ignored by his mother Cammie, abused by his uncouth stepfather Rich, and his stepsister Shari displays her incestuous feelings while ignoring the cries of her newborn child.

The young characters see life quickly passing over them, but lack desire or energy to keep up; in a world of manufactured sensation, numbing repetition, and greeting card emotional relationships, there is little motivation. The plot revolves around Darrell's growing belief that his girlfriend Jenn has betrayed and lied to him. Darrell's misguided and shocking response to the perceived betrayal will stay with you long after the lights go down, however, despite the apparent bleakness, there is a great deal of humor and a sliver of hope.

Examining the affects of parents abandoning their children, and children doomed to repeat the cycle over again, John Lahr, theater reviewer for The New Yorker, suggests that The Distance from Here be placed on the short list of important contemporary plays. "I agree," says director Walt Jones, "Distance should be read again and again as each read reveals a new aspect, a deeper layer and more subtle nuance of character." Jones continues, "LaBute has brilliantly managed to tell an intricate story with characters that are essentially inarticulate. Between the 'ums' and 'whatevers', he creates an America we fear is out there, perhaps even glimpse from time to time, but quickly put out of our minds. The Distance from Here shows those of us living in Fort Collins in 2008 that this America is not as far away as we think." *NOT INTENDED FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES.*

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