

Look Back In Anger

By John Osborne

Play no. 164

Opening show: 23/04/1959

Hebrew: T. Carmee

Director: Hy Kalus

Trumpet Music: Gari Bertini

Scenic decoration: Rhoda Rilinger

Dance coach: Avraham David

Cast

Jimmie Porter: Misha Asherov

Cliff Lewis: Shlomo Bar-Shavit

Alison Porter: Miriam Zohar

Helena Charles: Elisheva Michaeli

Colonel Redfern: Ari Kutaj

Act One Sunday

The home of Jimmie Porter, owner of a sweet stall somewhere in a small town in England. Jimmie and Alison Porter are in their room together with their friend and neighbour Cliff, who is partner in Jimmie's sweetshop. Jimmie, a morose young man, vents his spleen on his wife Alison, her good family and relatives.

The atmosphere is tense. After annoying and upsetting his wife, Jimmie goes out. Cliff tries to console her. The telephone rings and Alison announces that the friend Helena has come to town and has nowhere to stay. Jimmie angrily consents to having her stay with them.

Act Two Sunday several weeks later

Helena and Alison in the Porter's dwelling, discussing the stubbornness of Jimmie and the relations between Alison and Cliff which Helena finds rather strange. Alison tells Helena that she is going to have a child, but that her husband does not know yet. Meanwhile Jimmie is playing the trumpet, reminding himself of the days when he had a jazz band of his own. When Jimmie hears that Alison and Helena intend to go to church he berates them both, attacking Helena because she is persuading Alison to go to church with her. The telephone calls Jimmie away. He has to visit the dying mother of his friend Tom, who had helped him to start his shop; and he asks Alison to come with him. But Alison has had enough of the behaviour for the day and leaves with her friend Helena. Helena has asked Col. Redfern, Alison's father, to come and take her away from his "mad house".

Act Two Scene Two The following evening.

Colonel Redfern meets his daughter Alison, who tells him that she has decided to leave her husband. Helena says that she remain to inform Jimmie what has happened. Cliff comes in, says goodbye to his friend, and the father

and daughter leave for the Redfern home. When Jimmie comes in, Helena gives him a note from Alison and adds that his wife, who has left him, is pregnant. Jimmie is furious with his wife, "this cruel and idiotic girl", "that monument of indifference". Helena slaps Jimmie face, then falls into his arms kissing him passionately.

Act Three A Sunday evening months later

Jimmie, Cliff and Helena are together in Jimmie's room. Then Cliff announces that he is not longer going to stay as neighbour. Jimmie and Helena prepare "to go out and have some fun" when Alison appears. Jimmie runs away. Allison and Helena confront one another. A few moment later the sound of Jimmie's trumpet is heard. Allison and Helena discuss Jimmie without the slightest bitterness towards each other. Helena states rather suddenly that she intends to leave Jimmie, and Allison tries to persuade her not to take such a step. When Jimmie comes in, his grief at the loss of his child and of Allison can be left. Helena goes away, and Jimmie and Allison are left alone together.