

# Requiem For A Nun

By Wiliam Faulkner – Albert Camus

Play no. 197

Opening show: 18/04/1964

**Hebrew by:** H. Gluckstein

**Directed by :** A. Asseo

**Décor by:** S. Leibowitz

**Costumes by:** L. Gani-Pincus

**Lighting by:** M. Frank

Cast

**The Judge:** (Voice)

**Nancy Mannigoe:** S. Duer

**Gavin Stevens:** M. Asherov

**Temple Stevens:** M. Zohar

**Gowan Stevens:** L. Filer

**The Governor:** R. Rakovski

**Peter:** R. Brin

**Tubbs:** E. Jung

A coloured woman, Nancy Mannigoe is sentenced to death for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens six month old daughter, of which she was the nurse. She is defended in court by Gavin Stevens, uncle of the murdered child's parents.

Temple and Gowan Stevens come home after the trial, accompanied by Gavin Stevens. Temple tries to find out how much he knows about her daughter's murder.

The Stevens are leaving for California with Bucky, their elder son. They don't intend to be back for Nancy's hanging, in 4 months time, on March 13.

Yet, Temple is unable to stay away and, on March 11, they return home. Stevens urges Temple to come to the Governor and tell the truth about her daughter's murder. The truth which alone can save Nancy and redeem Temple.

The same night, at the Governor's office, Temple confesses. Gowan shared in the initial fault when, as a young, respectable girl, he made her elope from college with him. But she admits her fatal attraction to evil which led her, that same day, while Gowan lay drunk, to fall into the hands of a certain Popeye, who shut her up in a brothel in Memphis. There, she fell in love with Red, one of Popeye's young henchmen and wrote him compromising letters.

Gowan later took her out of the brothel, married her and gave her back decency and respectability, but without ever forgiving her.

Temple is now a respectable woman and a mother. The memories of her unforgiven past are still alive in her. She brings Nancy, one of her own kind, as a living memory of her former life.

Her past is suddenly flung back at her in a much harsher form in the person of Peter, Red's brother. He holds her letters and has come to blackmail her. Temple pays; first with money, then with herself. Peter is not only a reminder of her past, he is the evil in which she can rest, where no pardon is given or asked for. She decides to run away with him and take the baby with her.

Nancy, having tried and failed in preventing Temple from flinging herself back into a life of sin and dragging the child with her, does the only thing she can do to save the child and kills it.

Temple's confession has served one purpose only: that of truth. It has failed in bringing pardon. The governor can't pardon Nancy. Temple and Gowan can't pardon each other for the doom they have brought into their life.

In the prison, the eve of the hanging, Nancy is at peace with herself and with her fate. Her death will give Temple, Gowan, and their son Bucky, a chance of redemption and the right to live.