

# Little Murders

By Jules Feiffer

Play no. 237

Opening show: 01/10/1968

Hebrew by: Ada Ben-Nahum

Directed by: Abraham David

Setting by : Adrian Vaux

Costumes by : Martin Lees

Lighting by: Natan Panturin

The Cast

Kenny Newquist: S. Duer

Marjorie Newquist: I. Biderman

Carol Newquist: R. Klachkin

Patsy Newquist: T. Pardo

Alfred Chamberlain: N. Buchman

Henry Dupas: Y. Efroni

Lieutenant Practice: S. Danon

Weeping guests

**Act One**

**Scene 1 - February**

**Scene 2 – One month after**

**Act Two**

**Scene 1 – Four hours later**

**Scene 2 – Six months later**

**The Play**

Jules Feiffer, the famous American Satirical cartoonist, has written this play as though he were drawing a cartoon.

Little Murders is about the violence of the American way of life. The action is centered in a small "average" family that is surrounded by fear and murder – a situation Feiffer views as quite normal and even understandable. This attitude prevails even though two members of the family are murdered for no apparent reason and by complete chance.

As the play develops we are shown how the anarchy and illogic of this existence must finally lead to either complete disorganization, or a strong desire for "order and discipline", that itself eventually leads to fascism.

Each member of the family seeks escape in his own way – the parents in pettiness, the son in complete withdrawal, and the son-in-law Alfred in a sort of artificial apathy brought on by desperation. These escapes are unless, we are told. Even the apathy is only a temporary "sleeping pill". When the fear

itself is confronted, apathy flees and there is only one thing left to do - become part of the existing way of life by turning into a creature of violence.

The bluntness and opacity of the law, and its lack of relationship with real life, are expressed in the police inspector who makes a brief appearance.

Jules Feiffer achieves in this play description without polemic. By using the vehicles of comedy and caricature he very effectively handles the weighty and depressing problem that are the subject of Little Murders.