

THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY

BY **INGMAR BERGMAN**

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE
BY **JENNY WORTON**



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THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY
by Ingmar Bergman
adapted for the stage by Jenny Worton

The following acknowledgment must appear on the title page in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Play:

Presented by Atlantic Theatre Company
(Neil Pepe, Artistic Director; Jeffery Lawson, Managing Director)
in association with Andrew Higgin, Garry McQuinn, Debbie Bisno and Bruce Davey
at the New York Theatre Workshop in New York City, June 2011.

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INGMAR BERGMAN FOUNDATION

THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY was presented by Atlantic Theatre Company (Neil Pepe, Artistic Director; Jeffory Lawson, Managing Director) in association with Andrew Higgin, Garry McQuinn, Debbie Bisno and Bruce Davey at the New York Theatre Workshop in New York City, opening on June 6, 2011. It was directed by David Leveaux; the set design was by Takeshi Kata; the costume design was by Jess Goldstein; the lighting design was by David Weiner; the music and sound were by David Van Tieghem; the dialect coach was Stephen Gabis; and the production stage manager was Jenna Woods. The cast was as follows:

KARIN Carey Mulligan
DAVID Chris Sarandon
MAX Ben Rosenfield
MARTIN Jason Butler Harner

CHARACTERS

KARIN — early to mid-20s

DAVID — Karin and Max's father, 58

MAX — Karin's younger brother, 16

MARTIN — Karin's husband, 40ish

PLACE

The play is set on an island off the coast of Sweden, in the family's holiday home. The house is on a beach.

TIME

It is 1960.

NOTE

— is an interruption by another character

... is a sentence trailing off

THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY

Scene 1

From deep in the darkness at the back of the stage we hear laughter. Four figures emerge, each wet from the sea. All make their way to the front of the stage and stand there dripping, looking out.

DAVID. I'd forgotten how beautiful the water was.

MAX. You say that every year.

KARIN. And every year he's right. This is the most wonderful place on earth. Isn't it Dad?

DAVID. If you say so darling.

MARTIN. She does, believe me, frequently.

KARIN. And I say that everything will be perfect this holiday.

MAX. Ha!

DAVID. Do you now?

KARIN. I do. *(To Martin.)* You and Dad can put out the nets and Maxie and I will get started on dinner.

MARTIN. I think Max should help David with the nets so I can take a stroll with my wife.

DAVID. Or Maxie and Martin start dinner and Karin and I —

MAX. I've no intention of chopping vegetables or putting out the nets. I'll decide for myself what I'm going to do.

KARIN. *(To Martin and David.)* Now look what you've done. You should have listened to me in the first place.

DAVID. Arbitration! The father will decide. That way I keep my dignity. Come on Martin, let the children go inside, we hunters shall contend with the wind and the waves. *(To Karin and Max.)*

Go on, you'll catch your death out here.

KARIN. Brilliant plan, I wish I'd thought of it. (*Karin drags Max away.*) Come on, I want to get clean and dry.

MAX. I don't care about being clean. (*They are gone.*)

DAVID. Shall we grab a jumper or just brave it?

MARTIN. What do you think?

DAVID. There's a wind up.

MARTIN. Really?

DAVID. I'm fine, but —

MARTIN. If you're cold we should ...

DAVID. No. Not a bit. Are you okay?

MARTIN. I'm used to it. It's quite a breeze.

DAVID. What does not kill me makes me stronger and all that.

MARTIN. If it's good enough for Hemingway! (*David begins gathering the nets to take out and Martin puts on a pair of shoes.*)

DAVID. Storm clouds, do you think?

MARTIN. They won't reach us tonight. Afraid of a thunderstorm?

DAVID. You have no idea. The lack of control. You should see them tumbling out of the Alps.

MARTIN. How was Switzerland, aside from the storms?

DAVID. Brilliant.

MARTIN. So you enjoyed yourself?

DAVID. It wasn't pleasure, it was work. I missed you all. But I had to stay there and finish this damn book — I swore I would. Homesick or not.

MARTIN. And did you?

DAVID. What?

MARTIN. Finish it?

DAVID. More or less.

MARTIN. And your ulcer?

DAVID. All right. I might get you to prescribe something. I'll take the boat to town tomorrow.

MARTIN. I thought you were planning to spend the day here with us tomorrow?

DAVID. There are a few things I'm going to need to do.

MARTIN. I see.

DAVID. I can't pretend I don't exist because I'm on holiday with my family.

MARTIN. I know that.

DAVID. I exist Martin, I have obligations.

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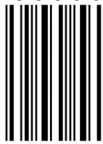
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Karin is a young wife, an older sister and an only daughter. In her kaleidoscopic internal world, the boundaries between different realities blur and shift. Karin's family goes on its annual holiday together, and on a bleak, beautiful island, her husband, father and brother struggle over the best way to help her. But as events spiral out of control, Karin realizes that she must take command of her own destiny. This unique stage adaptation was personally authorized by Bergman.

ISBN 978-0-8222-2638-3



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