

STIFF_ Stanley Miller

Stanley

(*reading Mickey's notepad*) Hold on, it's scribbles I'm looking at here. Let's see V.V., I'm assuming Vanessa, "easy on the eyes but not enough to sell tickets to her performance that looks and sounds like something resembling a cat being run over by a lawn mower"

Saul

Ouch.

Robert

That's horrible.

Saul

I thought she was pretty good.

Stanley

Well she wasn't if that's not apparent.

Robert

What else does it say?

Stanley

"Guy Van should stick to puppets on national T.V. instead of puking his lines out on the stages of New York. I've never seen worse. Many a child will be disappointed to learn their hero is a putz."

Robert

Was he just sitting here writing the review? How does he have the time to write all that?

Saul

He was going to say Putz in the review?

Robert

I agree with him there.

Saul

You're kidding me.

Robert

We have to be open to criticism...

Stanley

Robert Gray's script is in nine acts and feels like ten acts too long.

Robert

What?!

Stanley

"Although I do have to thank him for the predictable plot, it gives me time to get ahead on the review, and to bed early, where hopefully his words will not plague my dreams and thus giving me screaming nightmares. His play would be excellent if it were used for torturing Soviet spies. Someone should clue the defense department to this new method of torture."

Robert

Oh I'm!...I am so...

Saul

You see sometimes you have to be open as an artist to suggestion...

Robert

Be quiet!

Stanley

His turns next. "Someone needs to explain to Saul Solomon the difference between charm and cheap. I can often see the intentions in an artist's heart and mind when it comes to their choices, but it has never been so apparent the way this producer chooses to behave with his wallet. Renting out the Tin Box Theatre in the lower east side, and furnishing the set with a pitiful excuse for a gazebo, which by the way, he chooses to use for every one of the plays twenty-seven locations, which is perhaps a failure on everyone's part, gives the play the same kind of factory fake feel that the acting and writing do."

Saul

The nerve of this guy...I'm almost glad he's dead.

Robert

Anything else?

Stanley

Oh, there's lots more. "The entire production under Stanley Miller's direction is disappointing. Mr. Miller has taken completely incoherent, incompatible elements and still find a magical process for making them monotone and one note. I was hopeful for Mr. Miller in his early career, and even championed him to an extent, but after all of these years Mr. Miller has never found his footing, and The Blighted Heart under his direction only comes off...stiff... like all of Stanley Miller's productions."