

ACCESSIBLY LIVE OFF-LINE

Simon Gray's **MOLLY** is a melodrama of grand proportions about a middle aged woman who discovers a new love in her life. The consequences lead to foul play. **MOLLY** is open at Burbank's Victory Theatre Center.

Giselle Wolf is Molly. She lives in a stately home with her husband Teddy (Don Moss) and her housekeeper (Anne Gee Byrd) in a semi rural borough of London in the 1930's. Molly is rather outgoing, while her husband of Canadian origin is a bit Creaky, sports a hearing aid, and is thirty years her senior! She married him years before. Part of this couple's new domestic help, working around their home, is Oliver (Max Roeg) a much younger man. Molly and Oliver soon have an affair. This action leads toward other events of a serious and rather dangerous nature!

This work by playwright Simon Grey has all of the classic elements that combine plot points of high drama, romantic interludes, and even murder! The characters and the performers portraying them are suited well for their roles. Giselle Wolf as the titled lead character plays her role as a bold woman who hides her unhappiness with excess drinking and smoking – rather commonplace in that era. Don Moss as Teddy is indeed the head of their household. And Max Roeg as Oliver is near to a Brad Pitt type, or any other matinee idol who is a favorite with seasoned women of a 'certain age' – clearly the ideal candidate for one to have a fling with. Jeffery Passero directs this theatre piece with the same style and grace that one used to see on British PBS Television programs. The association is a compliment to this stage production. Those UK based dramas held complex plot points with much tension and drama.

Another notation to draw attention to: Elizabeth Hayden-Passero's set design of the household—a quaint and elegant home that is indeed classic, even sporting a grand piano – a 1930's state of the art form of entertainment.

Also ably appearing within the cast of characters are Geoffrey Wade and Bryant Weber.

MOLLY is a play that moves inexorably to reach its climax. Not giving too much away, The basic premise is based upon the Alma Rattenbury case where in the 1930's Alma, married to a Canadian architect and living in England, had an affair with an 18 year-old man who served as her chauffeur. (Use your favorite search engine on the net to find out more about this episode!

MOLLY presented by the Victory Theatre Center, 3326 W. Victory Blvd runs until Dec 20th. Show times are Fri & Sats at 8pm and Suns at 4pm. Reservations **818.841.5421**. www.theVictoryTheatreCenter.org.