

Nite Lights THE TOLUCAN TIMES

By Pat Taylor

“Molly”

In this “oh so British” murder mystery, a *superb cast* plays out the characters and events of a “true” and sensational 1930’s murder. It was cleverly written by Simon Gray, after reading an English paperback on a train, called “Ten Famous Trials,” and following his BBC TV play on the same subject.

Set in London in the 30’s, “Molly” chronicles the Alma Rattenbury story, and the oddly titillating relationships of four people, leading up to a violently spontaneous murder. A darkly offbeat tale of a quartet of lonely souls whose lives are intertwined...laced with sharp wit and quirky “naughty moments,” the impeccable performances were the main attraction, for me.

Gray’s script suggests certain vague insinuations that never surface, and unfolds slowly.... under the capable direction of Jeffery Passero. Taking place in England in the home of Molly and Teddy, (... He, an American, She a “Brit”) whose housekeeper/companion Eve, seems to be their only friend. Early on, they hire Oliver, a young “Cockney” teen, as a handyman and gardener. As inner emotions surface, and each of their passions, oddities, feelings and relationships are revealed, a deliciously diabolical chain of events play out.

Giselle Wolf is captivating as Molly! (In a Bette Davis caliber role). An animated, manipulative, self-involved, yet dutiful wife, who smokes and drinks non-stop... She looks like the cover of a fashion magazine, and chatters on like an exuberant child. *Don Moss* is also impressive as her dependent nearly deaf husband with sexual “issues.” *Anne Gee Byrd*, a fine actress is flawlessly focused as the lonely housekeeper who knows “all” but tells nothing. *Max Roeg* simmers with raw emotion, as the gorgeous young boy, hired to take on the chores (which he does, and then some!). Rounding out the solid cast in smaller roles are *Bryant Weber* as the Police Constable, and *Geoffrey Wade* as his superior, Greaves. Fabulous 1930’s costuming by Carol H. Beule and an appealing set design by Elizabeth Hayden Passero. Effective lighting by Tom Ormeny and sound by Rob Corn. **An involving production, based on an actual case...you’ll just have to catch this “whodunit” to find out who did it!**

Running through December 20th at the Victory Theater Center, 3326 W. Victory Blvd. in Burbank. Call (818) 841-5421.