

Revue de presse



Nice Frock directed by Patrice Kerbrat with Robert Plagnol
directautheatre.com 2021
Artistic Théâtre 2022



Nathalie Simon

A connoisseur of Andrew Payne, Patrice Kerbrat directs the English playwright's latest monologue, *Nice Frock*. Despite what the title suggests, he focuses on an unreliable narrator who shares his dreams and disappointments with the audience. Mike, a mortgage specialist at a bank, is despised by his wife and daughter. He embarks on a dubious scheme with one of his clients. There are mobsters, conspiracies and plans-gone-wrong. **The tone of Andrew Payne**, whose work includes the Inspector Barnaby series, **is dark, laced with cynical humour**, a whodunit where the hero commentates on every move. Performed by the brilliant Robert Plagnol who also translated and adapted the play to perfection.



Fabienne Pascaud

Money drives you mad. **In Andrew Payne's English play, a taste for money turns an ordinary bank executive into a ruthless mafioso.** Robert Plagnol goes from victim to executioner, from pyjamas to a three-piece suit, in the space of an hour. He is compulsive in this monologue-confession, veering between charm and violence, and creates a thriller in which anything can happen.

EOBS

Jacques Nerson

During the first lockdown, Robert Plagnol had no desire to sit around twiddling his thumbs. Every evening, he began performed, live on the web, a monologue written for him by English playwright Andrew Payne, filming himself with a tablet. This gave the performances a hint of the live experience, nothing beats a real live performance in the theatre. Go and see him on stage in this excellent one-man show directed by Patrice Kerbrat. In a disturbingly gentle voice, talented Plagnol plays **Mike, delicate and refined, whose adventures smell distinctly dodgy...!**



Jacky Bornet

Patrice Kerbrat brilliantly directs Andrew Payne's *Nice Frock* online.

For the past year, actor Robert Plagnol has been streaming live performances on his website directautheatre.com. After Andrew Payne's *Don't Go There*, he translates from English and performs his new play, *Nice Frock*: Mike has just been dumped by his wife, who has left with their teenage daughter, and is spending his money like crazy. He confides in us about his real estate dealings with a crooked investor who has dragged him into the mafia orbit, to the point of disaster. In real time, Robert Plagnol wakes, gets up, wanders around his flat, drinks heavily, grooms himself, tinkers with the construction of a model building, gets dressed... all the while complaining about his situation. **A new monologue, full of surprises, where the narrative ramps up the drama** with an actor whose performance is one for our times.

Nice Frock by Andrew Payne, produced by Robert Plagnol and directed by Patrice Kerbrat, has been broadcast since 22 April on Zoom, via the website created last year by Plagnol during the first lockdown: directautheatre.com. Like *Don't Go There*, it's a monologue in which the actor films himself. Once again Plagnol is in tune with the English playwright.

It is astonishing to see this actor, so distinguished in appearance, sink into **the criminal depths of the property developer's character**. It's a kind of courage, sacrifice even, that commands admiration. For my part, I was fascinated and gripped from start to finish. To the quality of the text, full of unexpected twists and turns, and the quality of the direction and acting, we can add the irreplaceable thrill of live performance.



Ruth Martinez

Following the success of the performances of *Don't Go There* during the first lockdown, Robert Plagnol is once again inviting us to enjoy an extraordinary experience, somewhere between theatre and cinema, via the platform he has created, directautheatre.com. We are delighted to return to the world of Andrew Payne, with Mike, as enigmatic as Franck, the protagonist of *Don't Go There*.

Robert Plagnol plays this character and his entourage with great humanity: his wife, his unbearable daughter and, above all, Freddy, a property developer who drags this peaceful bank executive into increasingly murky deals.

For 1 hour 15 minutes, we enter Mike's world, from the moment he wakes up to the moment he leaves for work, and we share his thoughts as he gradually tells his story. Robert Plagnol films himself live in a flat, creating a rare intimacy with the viewer who is watching from his own home.

This performance is a new departure for the monologue genre. While we wait for the theatres to re-open, this is an experience not to be missed.

LesEchos *Alice d'Orgeval*

Ultramodern solitude

Second time round for Robert Plagnol. The actor, who was one of the first in 2020 to broadcast theatre on Zoom, is back with a new play, *Nice Frock*. **This monologue by playwright Andrew Payne dramatises the mid-life crisis of Mike, a man who has achieved everything.** The play is as much about Payne's story-telling as it is about this experience of theatre without an audience, broadcast live three times a week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday).