

Shadow Tag  
(Part Two Topography: The Landscape of My Soul)

by temi rose

Black Comedy

Three Acts - Running time (approx.) 2 hours

9 characters

One set: an apartment.

Shadow Tag is dedicated to Lisa Steinberg who was brutally murdered by her (falsely) adoptive parents. May she rest in peace.

Synopsis

HE, SHE and BABY live in an apartment with OLD MAN and OLD WOMAN.

ACT ONE: HE is dominating SHE. BABY is neglected by SHE and abused by HE. ANGEL ONE and ANGEL TWO are hanging around, trying to help HE and SHE become less abusive. The ANGELS are frustrated with their inability to effect change in this dysfunctional household. No matter how much the ANGELS call on God, He never shows up to help them. Stymied, ANGEL ONE comes up with the idea to have HE and SHE switch roles.

ACT TWO: SHE is dominating HE. Although extremely comic, this role-reversal does nothing to ameliorate the pain and suffering of the family. Act Two ends with HE being more brutal than ever before. The OLD MAN and the OLD WOMAN attempt with their ancient and beautiful form of communication, to comfort BABY. HE denies there is a problem. SHE and the ANGELS are depressed, hopeless. The ANGELS decide to have a party.

ACT THREE: The ANGELS are still waiting for God. Suddenly, WOMAN ONE, God's estranged paramour, and WOMAN TWO, a theatre usher, come rushing onstage. WOMAN ONE has been sent instead of God, to help the ANGELS help the family. WOMAN TWO is trying to stop WOMAN ONE from ruining the play but instead of getting WOMAN ONE offstage, WOMAN TWO enters the drama herself. The party

begins and, in the chaos that ensues, the characters who are capable of loving find their liberation. In the end, HE is left alone, blaming the others for his predicament.

**EPILOGUE:** BABY returns as an adult to tell the audience that it is the small acts of kindness that will make us whole.