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Review of "The Age of Loneliness"

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It was a pleasure to read this one act play. The playwright has skillfully brought together a number of theories from a variety of disciplines: economics, history, theology, politics, sociology, popular culture. The play personifies theory into characters who engage, conflict with one another and interact principally through sparring conversation. We have been provided a platform that brings the reader/audience into that conversation and into compelling thoughts centered on the clash of values and perspectives — inevitable power struggles. And he has done so in a way that includes humor and the occasional reference to current social issues that will first surprise and then connect with diverse audiences.

As I read the play I could easily visualize a production. I imagine this play as a wrap up to a course in economic theory so that the audience comes to the experience with a basic foundation in key concepts. These concepts are then shared in a way that brings to life what might otherwise often be perceived as dry academic readings. There is the potential for an engagement through the medium of drama that will connect powerfully and will raise new questions and stimulate an emotional response not likely to occur in more straightforward academic structures. How has the playwright used this material, in what settings and with what types of participants both as actors and as audience? Are there conversation starters he has found valuable for an afterwards discussion?

Visualizing a production of the play suggested to me the need to use minimal costuming to help distinguish each character — something as simple as "letter sweaters" and key use of color would be helpful. A performance would not give the audience the benefit of a script with character names; the pacing of the play is rapid.

I found myself puzzling over the name of the playwright *within* the play: June. This took me to a search into mythology and the Roman goddess Juno, and the possible choice of the character's name because of these bits of information I found (yes, the source is Wikipedia):

> Juno's theology is one of the most complex and disputed issues in Roman religion. Even more than other major Roman deities, Juno held a large number of significant and diverse epithets, names and titles representing various aspects and roles of the goddess . . .

> While her connection with the idea of vital force, fullness of vital energy, eternal youthfulness is now generally acknowledged, the multiplicity and complexity of her personality have given rise to various and sometimes irreconcilable interpretations among modern scholars.

> Juno is certainly the divine protectress of the community . . .
> -   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juno_(mythology)

Was it the author's intent to "echo" these or other ideas in naming the character? Just raising that question in my mind is an example of the way this play has been crafted with the possibility of multiple levels of meaning and a variety of "hooks" for anyone who reads the script or experiences a production.

Finally, I continue to puzzle over the title of the play, "The Age of Loneliness" and that response is exactly what should happen with such a creative approach to learning and idea sharing!