

SUNDAY ◆ APRIL 25 ◆ 2:30 PM



STRINDBERG: FIERCE & LOVING —or, *The Father*, & What Interferes with Love

A Dramatic Presentation of Eli Siegel's Great 1950 Lecture

— with scenes from the Strindberg play —

What will take place in this matinee performance is new in the history of the theatre and humanity. You will learn the true meaning of one of the world's important plays—August Strindberg's *The Father*—and also the answers to the burning questions that play raises about love and marriage, answers men and women today are desperate for.

Why does the sweet ecstasy of love change into bitterness and hate? Why do a man and woman who once felt they loved each other come to be fierce, contemptuous enemies? Is there a way for love to be honest and lasting—and both passionate and kind?

We present as drama itself *Strindberg: Fierce & Loving*—the magnificent 1950 lecture by Eli Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism—with riveting, powerfully moving scenes from the Strindberg play.

Since 1887, audiences have been gripped and also terrified by August Strindberg's stark portrayal of marriage. Mr. Siegel explains what they and we and Strindberg himself have wanted to understand:

What Aesthetic Realism says about sex is: *it should be used to love the world. If a man feels that sex is a means of getting away from the ordinary world, and is a means in the long run of not liking it, and if he sees sex as a sort of comfort and pillow—even ecstatic pillow—against the world of everyday things, he will hate himself and will hate the woman who seems to have collaborated. So will the woman, because she also wants to like the world.*

...Strindberg says—and he's very important for saying it—a woman can, in seemingly yielding to a man, hope to have contempt for him. There is a desire to have someone who seems strong become weak, and in this way to glorify yourself. This is what Strindberg noticed in his married life, and he hated it.

It is a scientific and immensely kind fact that the answer to the torment in this play—and in the lives of men and women now—is in the study of good will, as Aesthetic Realism defines good will: “the desire to have something else stronger and more beautiful, for this desire makes oneself stronger and more beautiful.” Good will is not what people have thought—soft, gushy, insincere. It's the toughest, most intelligent, urgent, and romantic thing there is!

This matinee will include poems about love by Eli Siegel—poems that are musical, logical, and have great feeling. In *Strindberg: Fierce & Loving*, with its drama—and, yes, humor—you will hear not only the explanation of why love goes wrong, but the knowledge that can make love the kindly passionate, sincere, authentically beautiful thing people are hoping for!

Cast

CARRIE WILSON ◆ TIMOTHY LYNCH ◆ ANNE FIELDING
CAROL MCCLUER ◆ DEREK MALI ◆ ARNOLD PEREY

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