

Mocking bird

a play in two acts by

Joseph Hullett

Silver Medal Pinter Review Prize for drama

Creating with a canister of salt a surrealistic, timeless arena, an elderly woman whose life has been devastated by severe stuttering confronts her beloved childhood speech teacher. Events skip through time and space to reveal that – like some perverse *anti*-miracle worker – the teacher had created the stutter as part of a World War II experiment gone awry.

The threads of two lives unraveled by a single sin of accident or design ultimately knot. But since only love holds so tightly to hate, revenge or forgiveness balances on the ability of love to embrace its own betrayer.

Cast of Characters

Mary Clark:	A woman who stutters.
Miss Annie DuPray:	A genteel Louisiana woman with a Ph.D. in speech pathology.
Man:	Several roles: John Mullet, Superintendent of the Lady of Mercy Foundling Asylum Dr. Roy, a preeminent speech Pathologist Mike Merryhew, Mary's husband Annie's father Custodian

Staging:

The play is envisioned set in a surrealistic, seemingly infinite black space with a black-screened, upstage entrance. There are no setpieces and minimal props. Action moves in and out of time -- past, present, future, and eternity entwined. Actors fluidly assume various ages. For example, the actor playing Mary is an elderly woman who seamlessly becomes a young woman as well as a 9 year old girl. Also, the actor playing Mary briefly becomes Annie's sister, while the actor playing Annie also portrays a carnival barker.

NOTE:

This play is a work of fiction. All characters, institutions, and events depicted are products of the author's imagination. No resemblance to institutions or to actual persons, living or dead is implied.