



### ***Theater Review***

## **Stellar cast shines in outstanding revival of Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge***

***A View From The Bridge***

**Written by Arthur Miller**

**Directed by Gregory Mosher**

**Cort Theatre**

**138 West 48th Street**

**New York, NY**

**(212-239-6200), [www.aviewfromthebridgeonbroadway.com](http://www.aviewfromthebridgeonbroadway.com)**

By David NouNou

Any play that can lure Liev Schreiber to Broadway is a theatrical must-see event, as witnessed in his previous outings, such as the all-star revival of David Mamet's *Glengarry, Glen Ross* and Eric Bogosian's *Talk Radio*. Mr. Schreiber is now appearing as Eddie Carbone in this remarkable revival of Arthur Miller's 1955 play-and it is no exception. As Eddie, an affable Brooklyn longshoreman, Schreiber plays both a loving, doting uncle and a devoted husband.



'BRIDGE' PLAY: (left to right) Scarlett Johansson, Jessica Hecht, and Liev Schrieber in *A View From the Bridge*  
Photo: Joan Marcus

Like any Greek tragedy, Eddie's world will come crashing down on him, knowing full well that, through his actions, the consequences will be irreversible, but they are beyond his emotional control. From his robust entrance in the beginning to his hollow shell of his former self in the end, the transformation is intriguing and unsettling. From the hollow glare of his eyes to the sagging of his shoulders, and the bending of his back-all spell his defeat. Throughout it all is his fierce determination that never lets him give up what he rightfully believes and feels is his: His respect. When he demands "respect," not only in words but also with the fury in his eyes, the audience is left totally defenseless. We can't help him. No one can because, after all, Eddie is a good man at heart.

Eddie lives in a working-class apartment in Brooklyn with his long suffering wife Beatrice (Jessica Hecht) and her niece, Catherine (Scarlett Johansson). Catherine was left in their care since she was age 12 when her mother died. Catherine is now almost 18 and has grown into a beautiful woman. Eddie's love for Catherine has also developed to more than that of an uncle. This love has taken over Eddie to the point of an uncontrollable obsession. Matters are further complicated when the Carbones take in two illegal Italian immigrants, Marco (Corey Stoll) and Rodolpho (Morgan Spector), both of whom are Beatrice's relatives.

Marco left his wife and three children back in Italy to work as a longshoreman in New York in order to send money back home. Rodolpho has come to America for a new life. Rodolpho is different from Marco in many ways. He is single, blond, sings, can make dresses, and cook as well. These talents completely vex Eddie. Eddie's downfall is further pressed by Rodolpho's love for Catherine and the possibility of losing Catherine to another man. He rails against Rodolpho and makes accusations against him, saying, "He just ain't right." Anything to belittle Rodolpho in Catherine's eyes and anyone who will listen to him. Even at the insistence of Eddie's attorney, Alfieri (skillfully played by Michael Cristofer) - who is also the narrator/Greek

chorus-Eddie won't let Catherine go and give his blessings to marry Rodolpho. Eddie is too far-gone to have any control over his actions.

Ms. Johansson and Ms. Hecht ably support Mr. Schreiber. Ms. Johansson, best known for her beauty and being an A-list Hollywood actress, gives a touching performance as the woman/child that loves Eddie and wants to please him in every way, and the married woman she ultimately wants to be. She proves here, with her extraordinary acting talent, that she's not just another starlet relying on her looks. Ms. Hecht, a very capable stage actress, has finally landed her dream role. She matches Mr. Schreiber note for note in her fierceness not only to protect her position as the wife, but also as a woman. She knows the mistakes she made in letting the situation of her husband and niece get as far as it has, but she is resilient enough to persevere. She emanates her tenacity and love for Eddie magnificently through her eyes and quivering, emotional voice.

Although at times the play borders on the melodramatic, it is, first and foremost, a period piece. Gregory Mosher's sharp direction never allows the story to wallow in cliché-ridden moments. He has honed the cast's performances to perfection. As an added bonus, special mention must be made to John Lee Beatty's set design. He totally captures the mood, texture, feel, and oppressiveness of 1950s Brooklyn, helping make *A View From the Bridge* one of the highlights of the spring 2010 season.

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