



« A childhood sweetheart » : poor little rich things

Don't play at being impoverished especially when you're not ... Wealthy CEO, Antoine lives in an exclusive and expensive apartment with his wife Diane...

His lawyer turns up one day and announces that his first wife, Maryse, from whom he never divorced, is on her way back from Africa She could actually be entitled to half his assets ... With the help of their Asian maid, they decide to pretend they're destitute to get her to sign divorce papers for no compensation.

... After « La Dégustation », Molière awarded last year, Yvan Calbérac is back with a ferocious satire. Uproarious laughter from the audience at seeing this engaging and likable couple get more and more tied up in their lies.



« A childhood sweetheart » big little lies.

A wealthy couple move into the suburbs.

By Nathalie Simon 27.2.2020

Antoine has just received news from Maryse whom he married twenty five years ago and whom he'd completely forgotten about ... Worried that Maryse, who's asking for a divorce, demand half his assets, Antoine makes her believe he lives in a small studio apartment in Sarcelles, a modest suburb on the outskirts of Paris.

Ivan Calbérac (*Venise n'est pas en Italie, La Dégustation*) has written and directed a classic comedy of its kind : a small shameless lie which leads to a series of misunderstandings and burlesque situations.

A patent liar, Antoine accumulates blunders and ends up in an inextricable position.

Dragging Diane his wife, their housemaid and his lawyer along with him into the suburbs, an unknown world to them, they adapt to their new surroundings by acting poor, dressing badly and changing their vocabulary.

Ivan Calbérac has directed the play by putting great emphasis on the comical side of the situation ; his energy no doubt provoking fits of laughter during rehearsal. The audience, doubled up with laughter, are drawn in as they witness Antoine's fall ... One leaves the theatre at the end of the performance in a wonderful mood.

LE BILLET DE BRUNO

« **A childhood sweetheart** »

« **A childhood sweetheart** » written and directed by **Ivan Calbérac** at the **Théâtre de la Renaissance** in Paris is an exhilarating comedy in spite of its title which could well be misleading ...

I'm not sure if the sea air is responsible for Ivan Calbérac's fruitful imagination but today he is an author on top form.

After delighting us with "La dégustation" Ivan Calbérac has chosen a social farce for his new comedy and what a success it is ...

Antoine, in his fifties, is happily married to Diane ... an aristocrat and author for pleasure and not money : what a thought ! She'd rather spend her husband's who's made a small fortune on internet.

... Enter Maryse, his childhood sweetheart, asking Antoine for a divorce. The problem is Antoine doesn't remember he's still married to her

Antoine, forcing Diane to agree, decides to pretend that they are poor.

Following which come an avalanche of misunderstandings with countless unexpected situations right to the last scene. The audience roar with laughter and time flashes by.

... Laughter followed by tenderness ...

The object of a comedy is to make the audience laugh : Ivan Calbérac has won his bet. His comedy at the Théâtre de la Renaissance promises to be highly successful and should be seen.

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The return of a cumbersome wife.

Comedies in the private sector are all too often about bourgeois people talking to other bourgeois people and laughing at the same jokes. A little social satire is consequently more than welcome. Enter Ivan Calbérac, author of *L'Etudiante et M. Henri*, *Venise n'est pas en Italie*, *La Dégustation* with his new play *Un amour de jeunesse*.

If you were looking for a social comedy, this one is for you ! Fifty year old CEO no doubt with a hefty annual tax return has to face a rather embarrassing situation : « a childhood sweetheart » he has lost touch with for some twenty years resurfaces in Paris and wants to meet up with him. The problem is their marriage certificate provides for equal share of assets. And she can claim half his fortune.

... Faced with her ex-lover pretending to be poor (financially and intellectually) she looks like a naïve halfwit, but who's tricking who ?

... One can't help but laugh. It's so funny and revengeful ! Ivan Calbérac directs his actors with brio in this comedy about wealthy and not-so wealthy.

... As a social satire and if one looks closely, it remains measured. But if it is more amusing than revolted, it's a hugely good laugh and does one the world of good.

Gilles Costaz, jeudi 20 février 2020