

Inescapable
By Martin Dockery

Description

Like a lost episode of *The Twilight Zone*, *Inescapable* is a puzzle for the audience - and the characters - to solve. At an annual holiday party, two old friends happen to meet up in a side room. One of them is wondering why the other has just emerged from a closet with what looks to be a toy box.

And that's it; that's the entire play.

They debate the question of the box's origin, they dance around their motives for being in the room, they grow ever more suspicious of each other, again and again, circling ever closer to a truth they seem unable to arrive at. What we're watching are two middle-aged men who are stuck - both literally and metaphorically - in a moment which they are slowly coming to understand is entirely of their own making.

As the miserable holiday party stretches ceaselessly into the night, they grow ever more worried that something terrible is afoot. Is it merely the repetitive quality of a holiday party? Or is it something deeper, such as a mid-life crisis, the palpable sense that they're growing older, the fear of deteriorating mentally and physically?

Inescapable is a story of comic desperation as these two old best friends slowly come to realize that their friendship is not at all what they'd thought it was. As such, they yearn to start over. Everything. All of it. Starting now. And that's exactly what they do, repeatedly: start over. In an ever-worsening emotional unraveling, they are desperate to answer the question of who they are to each other, while simultaneously desperate to escape the very need to answer such a question at all.

As the *Edmonton Sun* wrote, "*Inescapable* is a sort of *Groundhog Day* meets *No Exit* meets *Waiting for Godot* meets... just about anything you want." It's about how within any particular moment, one can see a person's entire world. In this case, it's of two men in decline, both in their prospects and in their friendship. It's about the fear of impending endings, and the greater terror of something truly being never-ending. A conundrum, from which, it seems, there may be no escape.

The *Edmonton Journal* described the play well when they wrote, "*Inescapable* is a circular buzz saw of a play... in the friction of the spin, it gives off tiny, glinting revelations like sparks off a metal rail. And, thanks to the intricate infrastructure devised by Dockery, a mid-life crisis story of betrayal and lost possibility emerges without getting told."

We hope you enjoy it!