

NO NATAL A GENTE VEM TE BUSCAR (WE WILL PICK YOU UP AT CHRISTMAS)
By Naum Alves de Souza

A play in two acts for 4 actors

SYNOPSIS

The play focuses on the path of a middle class family, x-raying the values that provoke its disintegration. The characters, nameless, are only identified by their function in the family. The action, non-linear, begins at the point when the 'Spinster' (main character), after catching a train, believing that she is going to her cousin's home, is driven to an old people's home. Then there are many flashbacks of the past that draw the path of the family.

In the first act the flashbacks are shown through comic rituals of innocent cruelty and stinginess in the childhood and in the adolescence of the siblings, and of the protagonist, in the present.

The focus of the narrative is in the way these siblings have been brought up, in their education, in the values that are passed between generations and that everybody is obliged to fulfil them mechanically, in a blind obedience that produces stifling conditioning and the impossibility of a happy life.

The objective of the narrative is to discuss the social relationships, analysing the human behaviour facing several situations that require the option by new ways of life; the clash of unexpected and aching situations that the routine of the day by day puts at the front of the characters; the pull out of the social masks and to expose all their emotional sides, when fights by the individual interests are to the detriment of the collective interests; the question of the prejudice rooted in the society in all times; the question of the senility and its relation with the disconnected family and the absence of love, first need of the human being and the first reason of its pain.

At the end of the play, a brother and a sister talk about the fate of their younger sister, the 'Spinster'. One of them says that he doesn't understand why she became a hindrance, since she received the same education. The other answers: "the problem is that she believed." She, the younger sister, the protagonist, the 'Spinster', believed that the prize of a well-behaved girl would be an eternal marriage, never to be interned in an old people's home.

The other two characters disobeyed the social rules and are ok. They are selfish, but happy, and do not have time to lose with the younger sister. Because of that, they promised their younger sister that they will pick her up at Christmas, already knowing, the three of them, that that will never happen.

The text, of Naum Alves de Souza, of 1979, is not dated. Neither it would be able to: the loneliness is atemporal.

Critics compare the text in the style of Marcel Proust and Anton Chekhov, the realism of delicate tragedy and the theme of abandonment and loneliness in contrast to a happy time it was believed lost in the nostalgia of the past.

