



Golden State Haunts

by Erik Vanlier

The Thin Place from director Abigail Deser and written by Lucas Hnath is a slow burn but gripping ghost story.

The minimal ambient lighting from Matt Richter and basic set design by Deser and Amanda Knehans add to the atmosphere while costume design by Dianne K Grebner really make each individual character stand out against the backdrop

of the story. Sound designer Alysha Grace Bermudez uses simple but effective sounds throughout to add to the creepy atmosphere.

In the first part of the story we meet a kind of awkward Hilda (Caitlin Zambino) who tells about how her grandma taught her how to communicate telepathically by focusing on a hidden written word and imagining it with her third eye. That way Hilda can communicate with her grandmother after she passes away. Hilda's mother thinks this is the work of the devil and banishes the grandmother from the home. Soon after Hilda's mother goes disappearing with Hilda never seeing her again not knowing if she's alive or dead.

Hilda meets an ex patriot named Linda who's a medium and they both become friends. Hilda wants Linda to communicate with Hilda's grandmother even after Linda tells her that her communicating with the dead is just as much a "parlor" trick as much as anything else and she tells the people she helps what they want to hear to cope with tragedy and that it works better than psychiatry even though she's not 100% sure where the answers are coming from.

In the middle of the play we meet Linda's nephew Jerry (Justin Huen) who helps Linda with her immigration status while Linda helps Jerry's friend, a politician running for office by Linda teaching him her communication skills. Also entering the story is Sylvia (Corbett Tuck) a wealthy socialite who has been funding Linda. The middle part of the story takes place with the four hanging out and drinking expensive wine when Hilda receives a phone call from the house she used to live in which is now abandoned and where her mother used to live.

The real creepiness of the story comes in at the final act where Linda and Hilda go to the abandoned home to seek answers.

[#thethinplace](#) [#echotheater](#) [#ghoststory](#) [#theaterreview](#) [#playreview](#)