



Pie Lessons Takes Us Back to A Not So Unfamiliar Time



I recently saw an off-Broadway play called Pie Lessons which was a lot deeper than the title would suggest. One might think it was a lesson in baking (which, at some point it is) or a lesson in math; but it's much more of a lesson in history and how we prevent it from repeating itself.



Yes, Pie was indeed served before the doors of the theater opened and, yes, it was delicious. More importantly, during the performance lessons were served in a most entertaining way. Alyssa Emily Marvin is delightful as the curious pre-teen who respectfully and dutifully carries out her father's wishes by concentrating on her studies every night after school. She may not fully understand why he's impressing all of this on her but as time goes on, she begins to appreciate it more and I think she begins to realize he has many reasons motivating him to motivate her to continue to remember her history.

Robert Meksin's performance as Mr. Levski (the father) impressed on me the importance of knowing our history (which, these days, seems to be a common theme in much of our art. It's sad that we are in these times but thank goodness for the artists who continue to address it all.) While

the character never shares in detail why his daughter needs to know about the horrible parts of our history, he delivers haunting moments where you can see his memories are consuming him and his fears arise.

Jenne Vath delivers a most excellent example of a mom during the time the play is set (late 1950's to early 1960's) in Mrs Levski. She conveyed the perfect amount of quiet support, motherly nourishing, and superior strength mothers possess and possessed even when they had to do so behind the scenes.

I saw Pie Lessons at the end of this run but if and when it comes back or comes to a theater near you, I would suggest picking up a ticket, enjoying a great piece of pie, and reminding yourself why we all need to keep the history lessons going.