

Madison Hall University of Alabama

Mon, 3/2 11:46AM 10:51

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

carol, professor, audience, talk, audience members, david mamet, play, begins, sexual assault, men, book, kavanaugh, told, cheering, afa, report, received, disgust, dim, refreshments

SPEAKERS

Madison Hall

-
- M

Madison Hall 00:10

The audience has settled in their seats.
 - M

Madison Hall 00:14

There is chatter among the crowd. The program of the play shows a man standing proudly and a woman with a bull's eye on her forehead.
 - M

Madison Hall 00:25

The lights dim and the curtain rises.
 - M

Madison Hall 00:54

Um, Hello? Real quick, real quick. Um, I just want to talk about my grade. Okay, so I just have a lot of- Go ahead.
 - M

Madison Hall 01:08

Hi, um. So I just have-Oh, thank you. So, um, I just have a lot of problems with the, the things you say in class they just, I just don't really understand I-

M

Madison Hall 01:17

mmm, mhm. I bought your book. Yeah, I take notes. I-

M

Madison Hall 01:35

Listen, listen, I get it, I get it, I get it. Okay, you know, I, I sit in the back of the class and and everybody else sits in the front and everybody else talks about concepts and precepts. I'm just like, What in the world are you talking about? And I bought your book. And I take notes, and everybody said you know, "yeah sure go in that class because you know, you talk about responsibility to the young" and I'm failing. Don't even get me started on.

M

Madison Hall 02:17

Sorry

M

Madison Hall 02:27

In 1975, playwright David Mamet produced *Oleanna*, the first onstage depiction of sexual assault. This controversial piece sparked national conversation. Interestingly, the conversation didn't revolve around the play's content, rather, the audience's reaction to the content. For over 12 years of the play's production, no matter when or where, audience members would react in opposition to the victim. But this shouldn't be surprising. Considering this past year, comedian Louis CK received a standing ovation after admitting to sexual assault and President Trump apologized to Kavanaugh for his life being ruined. Nearly 50 years later, we are still publicly sympathizing with abusers. So in order to fully analyze this play and its impacts, it is imperative to understand what was happening offstage. So to maintain AFA guidelines, when my book is open, I'll be performing a scene and when my book is closed, I'll be explaining the audience's reaction to that scene. So through published reviews and the original text, a performative analysis of *Oleanna* by David Mamet.

M

Madison Hall 03:55

Sorry, it's stress. I was overreacting? Um. Yeah, I yes, yes. I think it's um, the language you use. I just, I just don't really understand I

M

Madison Hall 04:17

Yes, yeah. So for example um, I have no idea what you mean we say, oh, virtual

warehousing of the young, I just . . . I don't think you should-

M

Madison Hall 04:36

In her first interaction with her Professor, John, the audience begins interrupting more than expected. At least six men in the crowd are heard whistling.

M

Madison Hall 04:52

Uh, wh, why would you want it to be, um, personal with me? I-

M

Madison Hall 05:07

You like me?

M

Madison Hall 05:25

Hello?

M

Madison Hall 05:27

Yeah, this is Carol.

M

Madison Hall 05:30

Yes, I submitted the report.

M

Madison Hall 05:35

Yeah, real quick. Sorry. You're just like the fifth person I've talked to about this so I just

M

Madison Hall 05:44

Uh, what he said. Uh, Yeah, let me think about it.

M

Madison Hall 05:48

Oh, uh, he told me that he liked me. He said he wanted to take away the artificial structure of teacher and student life.

- M Madison Hall 06:03
He told me I was intelligent.
- M Madison Hall 06:07
He told me he had problems with his wife so, you know?
- M Madison Hall 06:10
I feel bad.
- M Madison Hall 06:14
And then he told me that if I did stuff with him in his office that he would give me an A. So
- M Madison Hall 06:28
What I said? Um. Well,
- M Madison Hall 06:33
Before Carol can even finish this sentence, a dozen audience members hiss at her in disgust and tell her to stop.
- M Madison Hall 06:43
Gosh, I mean, what do you normally say in those kinds of situations? Uh, No, stop. Please somebody help. I I'm I'm sorry. Okay, I I know you're trying to help. I'm just yeah. Talk to you in a week. Sounds good. Okay. Bye.
- M Madison Hall 07:23
Intermission begins. Several audience members grab refreshments and almost all of them are heard making fun of Carol.
- M Madison Hall 07:37
Hi, professor. Just one quick question. How many people are you going to make call me until my report is taken seriously? Oh, no, no, no, no. Those are not accusations. They are

facts. They have been proven



Madison Hall 07:59

Can you deny it?



Madison Hall 08:03

Can you see?



Madison Hall 08:09

You don't see, do you? No, you know, perhaps I should not have come here professor.
Okay. Okay. But But I did on my behalf. I came here to tell you that that you are vile.



Madison Hall 08:25

As soon as Carol says you are vile to the professor, someone in the audience screams, "but you're the snake."



Madison Hall 08:32

Wait, wait so. So you're angry for, for your actions, which which have brought you here?
No, no, no, I see you, professor. You are you brought me in here as some child that needs explaining. Well, I came in here to explain something to you.



Madison Hall 09:02

The professor begins beating, punching and kicking Carol to the ground. All of the men and the audience are standing, cheering him on. As Carol crawls underneath the desk to get away, men in the audience are chanting, "Finish it. Finish it. Finish it."



Madison Hall 09:38

You are not God.



Madison Hall 09:49

You ask me why I come here, professor. I came here to tell you that you don't get to decide

what happened. I do. Me. [sobbing]



Madison Hall 10:33

The play's end is signified by bows. Carol receives a normal amount of applause but the cheering for John is deafening.