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An inarticulate hope

***Look Back in Anger* by John Osborne**

Playing at the Royal National Theatre, London through September 18

By Paul Bond

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Osborne and the writers who followed him were looking at the working class or the lower middle class, struggling with their existence in bedsits or terraces.

Kenneth Tynan, who referred to the play's "instinctive leftishness" in his *Observer* review, wrote in a piece on "The Angry Young Movement" that Jimmy Porter "represented the dismay of many young Britons ... who came of age under a Socialist government, yet found, when they went out into the world, that the class system was still mysteriously intact."

There remains somewhere at the play's core, even if it cannot be explained, hope. There remains a belief that somehow people can survive the worst and perhaps even overcome it; a belief in humanity, and the possibility of a way forward.

<http://www.imagi-nation.com/moonstruck/clsc75.html>

John Osborne

When George Devine placed a notice in *The Stage* in 1956, Osborne decided to submit one of his plays, *Look Back in Anger*. Not only was his play produced, but it is considered by many critics to be the turning point in postwar British theatre. Osborne's protagonist, Jimmy Porter, captured the angry and rebellious nature of the postwar generation, a dispossessed lot who were clearly unhappy with things as they were in the decades following World War II. Jimmy Porter came to represent an entire generation of "angry young men."