

Athol Fugard's new play **A Place With The Pigs** (NT, Cottesloe), 'a personal parable' directed by the author, is disappointingly thin on texture, context and tone, set not in South Africa but in the Soviet Union where Pavel Navrotsky (Jim Broadbent) has lived for 41 years in his pigsty after deserting during the Second World War. He is fed and tended by his devoted wife (Linda Bassett). These actors are two of the most sympathetic we have, but the dialogue sounds and plays like a translation and the play puts forward ideas of liberty, hierarchy, brutishness, bestiality, incarceration and release at an interim stage between the transliteration of events that actually took place and their application elsewhere. Neither narrative nor parable leaves the ground.

## Ratcliffe On Pigs

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Thu, Jan 16, 2020