

Julie stuck with unfeeling play

Some excellent acting defeated by joyless script

Suzanna Andler

by DAVID GURNEY

Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford

THERE is something distinctly chilly at the heart of Suzanna Andler.

Maybe it's the setting. The play is based in St Tropez during the winter, a location which is all cold, deserted beaches and big empty houses.

It is an unwelcoming, miserable place which provides the ideal backdrop for the characters and the play, both of which are suffering from a total lack of warmth.

Suzanna Andler, played by Julie Christie, is a confused woman. Her marriage to a wealthy businessman is an unhappy one and she feels unloved

and unfulfilled.

While in France she meets a younger man, a journalist, played by Aden Gillett, who gives her some of the love she has been missing.

She seems happier but is still not sure she is doing the right thing. Should she stay with him, can it last, who is she really meant to be with?

Well frankly, who cares? This is a dull play which appears to labour under the delusion the audience is prepared to endure a lot of very enigmatic and oh-so meaningful dialogue to find out what the fates have in store for Suzanna and her lover.

But it is just impossible to get involved. It is quite remarkable how a play with no real plot and which is supposed to be dri-

ven solely by the emotional turmoil of the main character can leave you not the least bit interested in her feelings.

It is not that the acting is bad. Julie Christie gives a fine, measured performance and her talents do provide a couple of rare, tender moments.

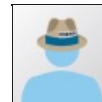
Aden Gillett is excellent, making his character an old fashioned romantic while retaining the air of the cynical journalist.

Despite their efforts, though, Suzanna Andler gets nowhere, slowly. It is a lifeless, joyless play which is more or less impenetrable and will almost certainly leave you cold.

● Suzanna Adler continues at the Yvonne Arnaud until Saturday.



● Julie Christie



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