

Bennington Theatre, Bennington, VT

**Twelve Angry Jurors**, by Reginald Rose, based on his 1954 teleplay.

Directed by David Dubov-Flinn.

Reviewed by J. Peter Bergman.

“I don’t presume its as simple as A-B-C.”

A guard opens a jury deliberation room and escorts in twelve nervous people who have just sat through a six week murder trial. They are to deliberate, vote and come up with a verdict, the right verdict. An initial vote brings them eleven in favor of conviction and one opposed. The rest of the two hour play results in unexpected reversals of thought. It’s a brilliant script based on the original teleplay and the film that followed it. All three are by Reginald Rose. Brilliant.



L-R: Mary Jo Greco, Becky Nawrath, April Patrick, Rick Burgoon, Kathleen Thunberg, Doug Ryan, Jackie Degiorgis, Leo Hernandez, David Flinn, Hope Jasper, sxr gripp, Thomas J. Stevens; Photo: Alexey Tarasov

The company of players at the Bennington Theater do justice to the writing, each one delineating his or her character perfectly. We hate, as we’re supposed to, Juror #10 played by Hope Jasper. We love Juror #9 played by David Flinn when he changes his vote. We admire the sagacity of Juror #6 played by sxr gripp. Mary Jo Greco is a most sensible Juror #1 and Becky Nawrath is a delight as the foreign-born Juror #2. Juror #3, played with unequaled ferocity by Doug Ryan, scares us constantly while mild-mannered Juror #7, as portrayed by Rick Burgoon, soothes our fears. April Patrick’s Juror #5 is a gentle, calming force. Juror #11, as undertaken by Jackie DiGiorgis is an inquisitive jury member and Kathleen Thunberg’s Juror #4 constantly questions everything. Thomas J. Stevens keeps Juror #12 a guessing-game of a man. At the center of all this collection of random human beings is Juror #8, beautifully played by Leo Hernandez who never fails to impress with his calm demeanor even when physically threatened.

Director David Dubov-Flinn has kept the play alive and moving with people behaving as they should and moments flashing by as they must in a jury room. In this stage adaptation by



Leo Hernandez, Thomas J. Stevens, Doug Ryan, sxr gripp; Photo: Alexey Tarasov

Sherman L. Seagel, the mixture of genders is fascinating for a story set in the early 1950s when it was extremely rare to see a woman on a jury, let alone six of them. Even though the show is clearly set in that period the female characters do not seem to be in the wrong room doing the right things.

Listed in the program as a play in three acts it is presented in two acts with one single intermission. Physically it looks right with fine costume design work by Janet Groom and a perfect set created by Todd Clark. The original music by Andrew Lindsay works well.

This production enjoys a very short run so I'd suggest you book seats immediately and get yourself up to Vermont even sooner than that. The show is an unexpected treat.

+ 05/02/2025 +

**Twelve Angry Jurors** runs until May 4 at the Bennington Theatre located at 331 Main Street, Bennington, Vermont. For information and tickets go to:  
[boxoffice@benningtontheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@benningtontheatre.org).