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The Congo was one of the most aggressive violators of human rights. "Crumbs from the Table of Joy is set during the 1950s and concerns two teenaged girls whose conservative, widowed father moves with them from Florida to New York City, where they all move in with their free-thinking aunt. Both portray the trouble that comes from adhering to a
misguided and delusional belief system. Although the garments she sews are imaginative and erotic, in her personal life the woman is repressed and has few close relationships. However, the time he spent in Operation Desert Storm changed him in a profound way. It was a short play entry that reignited her desire to write scripts; that play, Poof! won
an award. Just as she is swept away by the rapid, uncontrollable change in her life, so is the audience. The reader cannot help but think that Undine's father is emotionally distant and does not engage on a personal level with the other
members of the family. To their surprise, their father soon comes home with a new wife—a white, German woman. By the end, the audience is more likely to respect Undine and have hope for her future because of the way she has handled such rapid, unexpected change. Symbolism in a very subtle, natural way in the play. He
now works as a security guard at Walgreen's. Undine tells her mother she does not know how long she will have to sleep with her grandmother. She begins a correspondence with a man working on the Panama Canal, and he eventually comes to New York, where they marry. As a child growing up in
Brooklyn, New York, she began writing plays in her journal. She has changed her name from Sharona to the more refined Undine, become a mover and shaker, and has even made up a story about her family dying in a fire, but she learns that she cannot truly change the truth of her past. In the following essay, she delves deeply into the comparisons
between Voltaire's Candide and Nottage's Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine. There have been many comparisons made between Lynn Nottage's play Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine and Voltaire's classic novel Candide. While she does not seem to be overly ambitious or career-oriented, she is committed to finding work that will
take her somewhere. Undine's mother, father, brother, and potential boyfriend are all security guards. The people in the security guards were in Westerns—where the bad guys were in Westerns—where the bad guys were black hats) are the ones who are actually loyal and true. Another symbol is Undine's
pregnancy itself. It takes on stereotypes about race, class and gender, yet remains poignantly transformative..." —DCMetroTheaterArts.com. Since then, most of Nottage's career has been in drama. Create a timeline presenting the information you have found. Undine's self-image changes significantly over the course of the play. Her pre-occupation
with herself is clear in how quick she is to criticize those she left behind when she went to start her business in the city. Undine tries to talk to her father, who speaks in a distant way about a man in the neighborhood who solved a prize-winning math problem, but was killed before he could collect the money. Both characters delude themselves into
thinking the world is what they want it to be, but only Undine learns that there is another truth outside of her delusions. They argue over forms and the length of the line until Undine escalates the argument to the point that the case worker has Undine taken by paramedics to a psychiatric hospital. As a successful financial planner, she is actually
attempting to help other women in her community instead of denying them altogether, as Undine had done. It seems to run in the family because when Undine asks her father how he is, he responds, "I is and sometimes I ain't."The Pitfalls of Attempting to Escape the PastAt the heart of Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine is a message about
the impossibility of removing oneself from the past. They both have larger-than-life protagonists whose lives take a series of twists and turns in their descents. He is battling his addiction and respects Undine for being a fighter. When he is not at work, he is either sitting in a bar with his friends, or sitting at the table at home drinking beer and
occasionally talking to his family. He is clearly bitter. Security guards come to represent family, love, and acceptance for Undine. Rosa is still living in the projects, and Devora has moved into the city after becoming a financial planner. Most single parents are mothers because of personal and court preferences. This play tells the story of African-
American women pioneers in the old West and their fight to create a life of fulfillment and freedom. Curry, Cuthrell, Making the Gods in New York: The Yoruba culture in religion in the United States. Penniless. When her
business and money are gone, so are her friends and connections. Nottage explained to the Kentucky Educational Television interviewer that she wrote the play in part to try to understand the extreme changes that were taking place in society at that time: "Crumbs from the Table of Joy is about a displaced Southern family smack in the center of New
York City, in the 1950s, trying to cope with those changes. But Candide is so clueless about love that he agrees to go ahead and marry Cunegonde even after he loses interest in her. He always stays positive, and Undine tells the audience, "His sincerity is sickening," while also admitting that everything that makes him so different from Herve makes
him appealing.SCENE 2In the courtyard of the projects, Undine runs into two old friends, Rosa and Devora. People are misled, given false hope, victimized, and even killed in the wake of unfit authority. He tells her that if she wants him to be there for her delivery, he will. She talks more about her relationship with Herve, how exciting it was when
they met and fell in love. I am fascinated by the Congo, fascinated by the politics of that region and the legacy of colonialism. She then went to the Yale School of Drama, where she completed her Master of Fine Arts degree in 1989. 22-26. Isherwood, Charles, "Downward Spiral for Gotham Diva," in Variety, Vol. Candide's optimism never did him any
good, and only made matters worse. Writers such as Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, and lecturing for more than twenty years. In both cases, the characters start out comfortable, content, and living with wealth and status. It is a riches-to-rags story that follows the apparent decline of Undine from
her high-profile job in Manhattan back to the projects where she grew up. When Undine goes before the judge, she is sentenced to a drug program that she must attend or face a year in prison. Act 2SCENE 1As the second act opens, Undine is sitting in on one of her drug counseling group sessions. Candide never quite learns this. This is an important
lesson because it shows how two very different people can go on similar journeys and, based on their personalities and willingness to learn, have completely different outcomes. The last area to look for comparisons is in the messages, or themes, of each work. She explains that she came from a humble background, acquired excellent schooling, and
broke from her past to become the owner of a "fierce boutique PR firm catering to the vanity and confusion of the African American nouveau riche." She then explains that she met Herve at a party, and she was swept away by his Latin charm and the fact that "he gave me flair and caché." They married, he got his green card, and they led a glamorous
life. On the date, he tells her that he is a security guard at a movie theater, but that he wants to be a firefighter. Thus, when Candide and Pangloss see another man, they do nothing to stop it because Pangloss declares that the sea itself was put there for that very moment. As of 2007, shestill lived in
New York City. Nottage may be making a statement about the particular importance of African Americans honoring each other in all social strata and taking pride in their past, but the themes are applicable to many backgrounds and experiences. Fabulation or, The Re-Education of Undine FEE: $105 per performance. THE STORY: FABULATION is a
social satire about an ambitious and haughty African American woman, Undine Barnes Calles, whose husband suddenly disappears after embezzling all of her money. One of her plays to see publication was Crumbs from the Table of Joy, which tells the story of a widower and his two daughters who move from Florida to New York to live with family.
The resulting play was her 1997 work, Mud, River, Stone. The year 2004 was a busy one for Nottage. American Theater critic Randy Gener describes the play as a "surreal fusion of Absolutely Fabulous; and a classic trickster tale" before labeling it a "very tall cautionary urban parable." Gener concludes: "Spiritually, Fabulation is an American Theater critic Randy Gener describes the play as a "surreal fusion of Absolutely Fabulous; and a classic trickster tale" before labeling it a "very tall cautionary urban parable." Gener concludes: "Spiritually, Fabulation is an American Theater critic Randy Gener describes the play as a "surreal fusion of Absolutely Fabulous; and a classic trickster tale" before labeling it a "very tall cautionary urban parable."
descendant of the West Africa fable, whose animating verve lies in the psychic concept of nyama (energy of action), in which the erotics of laughter convey a moral theme: The past is never truly past."In Variety, reviewer Charles Isherwood criticizes Nottage for not revealing enough about Undine's psyche. Undine tells the audience that Flow had
been successful in the military, but came back from Desert Storm changed. Log in to your personal account or through your institution. Further, because of their family situations, many students have to work jobs or care for younger siblings in addition to keeping up with school work. Besides educational issues, it can be difficult for younger siblings in addition to keeping up with school work. Besides educational issues, it can be difficult for younger siblings in addition to keeping up with school work. Besides educational issues, it can be difficult for younger siblings in addition to keeping up with school work.
American women to get their feet in the door in businesses because of a lack of contacts. By the end of the play, she has come to understand herself better as a part of her family, and she will be forced to put her selfishness aside because she will have a baby depending on her. He seems to see the world through pessimistic eyes and has given up on
the idea of living his dreams. So they became security guards at a university. For example, Flow is a man with a divided nature. Fabulation Light PlotFile Size: 320 kbFile Type: pdfDownload File Captions are provided by our contributors. Co
image file to the full size using image processing software. Release: Model - no | Property - noDo I need a release? Dimensions: 4806 x 2955 px | 40.7 x 25 cm | 16 x 9.9 inches | 300dpiDate taken: 10 December 2018 More information: This image could have imperfections as it's either historical or reportage. Search stock photos by tags You do not have
access to this book on JSTOR. You would think that we do not exist. She is a person who finds herself in a situation faced by many people the world over and in all eras. It is all happening so fast, that the audience can not help but have a level of understanding as to how Undine must feel being tossed around in the wake of disaster. When her husband
turns out to be a criminal and a thief who leaves her alone, pregnant, and penniless, Undine returns home to face the family and community she abandoned. Her grandmother talks about how she wishes Undine had not left the family the way she did, and that the tension at home was not as bad as Undine makes it out to be. Undine is frustrated
because someone called for her, but neither parent nor the grandmother remembers anything about the call or the caller. A grown woman, she must swallow her pride and return to her family's house, depending on them for support. Both characters find themselves in a rapid descent, encountering dangerous characters, becoming the victims of
misunderstanding, and going through outrageous experiences. For many urban areas with large African-American populations, public schooling struggles to keep up with the increasing demands of the modernworld. I think some of that comes out of working at a place like Amnesty International—I studied the abuses of countries. And I think that is
where I got all of my inspiration as a writer. "Seeking a world beyond Brooklyn, Nottage attended the High School of Music and Art in New York, then went on to Brown University and Yale Drama School. She is also Undine, the successful businesswoman in New York City who is powerful, smart, and wealthy. Undine shares with the audience certain
chapters from her past, along with her perspectives on them. Undine believes that severing ties with her person she has created in an interview posted on the Kentucky Educational Television Web site, "I think for me the journey begins downstairs at the kitchen table of my house. But you
would not know that by looking at TV or films. In that sense, the reader might draw a parallel because Undine's authority over her own life has been so lacking. She accuses him of being a selfish user, and he accuses her of being closed off to the world. SCENE 8In her next group counseling session, Undine learns that Guy was the one who called her
home. Thus, a comparison of their works is an intriguing undertaking. First, a brief summary of Candide is in order for those who have not read it, or have not read it recently. When an Federal Bureau of Investigation agent arrives to talk to Undine about her husband's identity fraud, she is even more shocked. She and Guy talk during someone else's
heart-wrenching discussion of addiction, but their conversation soon becomes the center of attention. She is reluctant to bring a child into this world, but when she releases her hesitation, the baby comes out. "...outrageously hilarious... FABULATION OR THE RE-EDUCATION OF UNDINE...will keep you laughing from start to finish. Be sure your
script is consistent with the information Nottage gives in hers. How have business opportunities for African-American women changed in the last ten to twenty years? The agent also explains that their research has shown no record of an Undine Barnes Calles until fourteen years prior to that day. This woman is in prison because a man was talking to
her and treating her like a demeaned sexual object, and she physically assaulted him to protect not only herself, but to teach him not to treat women like that. The woman from across the street would be sitting at the table. I find when I have spare time I read nonfiction books about the Congo. After graduation, she worked as national press officer for
Amnesty International and gave up creative writing for some time. 395, No. 6, June 21, 2004, p. She tells him that she once had a successful PR firm. He works as a security guard at a movie theater, but he dreams of becoming a firefighter. Pregnant and on the brink of social and financial ruin, Undine retreats to her childhood home in Brooklyn's
Walt Whitman projects, only to discover that she must cope with a crude new reality. Undine addresses the audience with general questions about her life, and then announces that the authorities caught up to Herve.SCENE 7Undine visits Herve in prison, where he is surprised to find her pregnant. He says, "you seem to have materialized from ether."
At this point, Undine excuses herself and addresses the audience directly. And part of my mission as a writer is to say, 'I do exist. The speech led to a great deal of discussion and debate about diversity in American theater. Undine also shows a capacity to be open and vulnerable in love. At another point, she sees it as something that makes her a
stereotypical single, black mother in the projects. Throughout the story, he is in pursuit of Cunegonde, the woman he loves (although it is really no more than an infatuation). Census Bureau statistics for 1995 revealed that almost two-thirds of all African-American family groups with children were headed by single parents, and the numbers of those
headed by fathers is extremely low. There is nothing, after all, about Undine that is only relevant to African Americans or even women. Her circumstances take a dramatic downturn, and she is left with no alternative but to return literally to her past. She then asks Undine if this was her first time as a prostitute, and Undine tells her that is not why she
is there at all, that it was just a misunderstanding. Not only does she allow Guy to become a part of her life despite the fact that he is everything she avoided in her New York City life, but when Undine is in the waiting room with another pregnant woman, she sets aside her bruised ego (at being called old) and reaches out for the young woman's hand
to admit that she is just as scared. Undine ditches her washed-up rapper boyfriend when she is swept up in the romance of Herve. Undine's grandmother makes her feel guilty and manipulates Undine into going to buy more drugs for her, which lands Undine in jail. GuyGuy is a sensitive man Undine meets in her drug counseling group session. Undine
asks him how his epic poem about Brer Rabbit is going, and although he has been working on it for years, he insists that he is still going to finish it. Undine's mother finds a level of contentment in her home in the projects by settling into denial about certain things (like her own mother's drug use), and holding onto hope about others (such as her
family living harmoniously). Sharona See Undine Barnes Calles Stephie is Undine's executive assistant in the first scene of the play. While Candide and Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine both depict the negative outcomes of foolish philosophy, they part ways on the issue of authority. They give her antipsychotic drugs she can not take
because of her pregnancy, and Undine still has to face social services the next day to get the right form. SCENE 4Undine eventually makes it through the system and is able to see a doctor. Undine turns to the audience and tells about her family. ... A sense of blurred lines between aspiration and actuality is given ingeniously varied life throughout." —
NY Times. In Undine, Nottage has created a character who is effectively two people. This is significant because the two words "security" and "guard" should give her an indication where to place her trust. When pushed to share her own story, Undine makes up a story of addiction and even manages to cry. Part of the problem is education. Both also
show the importance of learning from life's lessons and being willing to mature. Undine remarks that the descriptions of crack by the addicts make her want to try it. It is an unusual rags-to-riches-to-rags story of an African-American woman who overcomes her humble beginning, becomes arrogant in her success, and takes a dramatic
fall back to where she started. Imagine the life of one person living there who is in some way similar to you, and write three days' worth of journal entries for this imagined person. How would this play be different if it depicted the lives and struggles of people of another racial or ethnic group? In Candide, the main character is a young, naiïve man who
meets calamity after calamity, all the while spouting the optimistic philosophy of his mentor and companion, Pangloss. Guy encourages her to look at her pregnancy not as a burden, but as an opportunity to learn. Many people network through family connections, fraternities and sororities, and internships. The couple struggles with getting to know
one another while facing the difficulties of being a mixed-race couple in a time before this was accepted. In Kathy Perkins's and Roberta Uno's anthology Contemporary Plays by Women of Color (1996), the editors demonstrate the diversity of experiences, voices, and styles among a group of talented ethnic women playwrights. Undine senses early on
that he is trustworthy, and she agrees to have him attend the birth of her baby. When he is done, they talk about how they saw the article about Undine where she said her family had died in a fire. Regardless, the pregnancy is what contributes to her return home and what makes her compassionate and understanding to other overwhelmed women.
Continuing a tradition that began and was grown through the works of Zora Neale Hurston, Countee Cullen, and Gwendolyn Brooks, today's African-American women writers have shown impressive staying power. When Stephie leaves, Undine finds her vitamins, shoplifts them, and heads home. SCENE 6Back at home, Flow is talking about a shoplifter
at his store that he tried to turn around with a moving speech about making better choices to honor the heritage of African Americans. Her pride makes her return difficult, and she is defensive and judgmental. Nottage has received a number of prestigious awards for her playwriting, including a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship and a
Guggenheim Fellowship in 2005.PLOT SUMMARYAct 1SCENE 1The play opens with Undine in her office on the phone with a client. Set in the 1950s, the African-American family faces personal struggles within the family, along with social struggles in the upheaval of the day. The card, taken by Undine, symbolizes her newfound
humility. Aside Nottage uses the theatrical technique of asides as an effective way to fill in the back story to allow the audience access to Undine's private thoughts. Unprepared for motherhood, Undine grapples with her situation. She and her husband had hoped to join the police force when they were young, but had to settle for jobs as security
guards. The work he puts in on his poem, and his passion in discussing it, reveal an intellectual side of Flow. Her internal struggle comes from the fact that she only wants to be one person-the one she created. She has worked as an award-winning playwright and as a visiting lecturer in playwriting, and scripts continue to inspire and motivate her
new self to exist. At first, Undine regards her circumstances as somewhat tragic and speaks fatalistically: "I think I'm officially part of the underclass. Recounting the incident, she tells Undine what she said to him, "I work from 9 to 5 at Metrotech, my man, don't you look at me like a 'ho, don't you talk to me like a 'ho, don't you disrespect me like a
video 'ho." She tells Undine, "Now, he gonna think twice 'fore he place a hand on another woman. The captains of industry—Donald Trump, Bill Gates, Martha Stewart, and others—are still primarily white, and mostly male. African-American Women WritersJust as African-American women are gaining influence and status in other areas of business and
society, they are also gaining prominence in American literature. They want to search for their roots, but instead, they find themselves taken hostage. Although she loses her status, wealth, and pride, she gains wisdom and self-knowledge that would have eluded her in her prior existence. In this, he challenges her to look at herself
him off with the police. Down there was a gathering place for so many women. Gradually, the business world has been opened to African-American women, but some areas are still undergoing growing pains. In her story, there is almost no authority figure with any power over her except for the police to arrest her and the court to enforce a drug
rehabilitation requirement. His only redeeming quality is that he sees Undine for who she has become, and he is not afraid to tell her. Undine is surprised and also frustrated at the doctor's telling her she should have come in sooner to receive proper prenatal care. SCENE 5Undine goes to a drug store in an entirely different neighborhood because it is
keeps the audience engaged with little time to process the action and characterization of one scene to the next. Undine tries to change her past by reinventing herself and telling lies about her family, but none of that changes the truth of what her past is. Although she worked as a press officer for Amnesty International after graduating, she later
returned to writing. The last sound in the play is a baby's cry as the lights go down. CHARACTERSUndine Barnes Calles thirty-seven, Undine owns a successful boutique PR firm in New York City. Add a concluding paragraph sharing your insights. Undine skips over most of the details of her rise to the top in New York City. Daniels also felt that the
play loses focus, but he also had praise for the early scenes, in which "the characters are clearly defined, the landscape picturesque, the dialogue laced with humor." Reflecting on her experience in creating this play, Nottage told the Kentucky Public Television interviewer: "I most certainly will write more about Africa. He seems to have a broken
spirit, and the world has made him cynical and detached. Flow Flow is Undine's brother. Pay special attention to how you preserve the intent of the play while applying it to new circumstances. The doctor tries to cheer her up with the good news that she is pregnant, to which she responds by addressing the audience directly again. In his case, he is
right to turn from his past. They have accepted each other and respect each other, so the relationship is based on something abiding. The priest says that Undine has angered the god Elegba, and he waiting room of her doctor's office in
Brooklyn, she has compassion for a scared young pregnant woman and takes her hand, admitting that she is also scared. As a result, it can be difficult to get a good education, even for motivated students. When Flow tells his family about the young shoplifter he lectured in an effort to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no greaters to help him see a better way, he says that "there ain't no gre
crime than abandoning your history." In a group drug counseling session, one of the addicts talks about the pain of breaking past habits, and he says, "I will no longer inhabit the places of my past." This is the other side of the theme. Candide is designed to show the futility of ridiculous philosophies and the importance of trustworthy authority. Undine
has been honest with Guy, and he has been honest with Guy, and he has been honest with her. Believe it." She is not willing to stand for being objectified when she has worked so hard to make a respectable life for herself and her family. STYLERapid PaceThe pace of Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine is rapid and at times dizzying. Alison is the only friend who has not totally
abandoned her, and Undine tells the audience that Alison also changed her name when she achieved success and wealth outside of Harlem, where she was reared. The grandmother convinces Undine to go get more drugs for her, and while Undine is in the middle of the deal, the police arrive. Like monologues (which are spoken by characters who are
alone, as if the character is talking to himself or thinking out loud), asides let the audience know what the character's true thoughts and feelings are. She knows that she is joined with other women in a unique way, and she takes part in a universal human experience. She is married to an exciting, sophisticated
so universal that they appear in very different works by very different works 
research about African-American women's experiences in On Our Own Terms: Race, Class, and Gender in the Lives of African-American Women (1996). In her old age, she feels unsatisfied and useless with little to look forward to every day. Their real-life relationship turns out to be very different from what either imagined it would be, and the second
act of the play deals with their disappointments and the way they cope with them. Try logging in through your institution for access. Then Undine is talking to her doctor and learns that she did not have a heart attack, just a severe anxiety attack. Devora had heard of
an Undine who was a PR executive, but does not realize that it was the same Undine. Intimate Apparel was also published in 2004, and tells the story of a long-distance relationship and the challenges that come when the couple marries. I've returned to my original Negro state, karmic retribution for feeling a bit too pleased with my life." She is
ultimately unable to leave the past behind for good; her situation forces her to accept, learn, and grow. As with the theme of duality, Nottage takes care to reinforce the theme of the past through the words of other characters. But when Candide lands, he is in a calmer setting, having learned almost nothing, while Undine is in a more demanding
setting, having learned quite a lot. Networking can be a critical part of a young person's career. Create a work of art in any medium you choose that you believe would be an accurate self-portrait of Undine at the beginning of the play. It builds trust and intimacy between the character and the audience.HISTORICAL CONTEXTSingle MotherhoodSince
the mid-1990s, the number of single-parent homes has remained steady. They know she was ashamed of them, yet she is unwilling to see her own arrogance. She also speaks directly to the audience to reveal what she is thinking about another character or what her hidden reaction to something is. Where Undine attempted to disconnect from her past
for reasons of status and pride, the addict wants a brighter, cleaner future and wants to break from his destructive past. When Undine returns, Flow is resentful and sarcastic; he tries to make her feel awkward and unwelcome. Undine's life has been about removing herself from under the authority of anyone but herself. But this depiction of authority
Nottage was born in 1964 in New York City, and grew up in Brooklyn. He asks whose baby it is, and she releases her anger on him. He is, however, a man of his word. While Undine cannot change what the past was, neither can she outrun it. In this address, Wilson challenges African-American artists of all kinds to take control of their cultural identity
and importance. She strikes up chit-chat with her mother, and when Flow asks about the father of Undine's child, Undine gets defensive because she feels like she has become such a negative stereotype as a single African-American mother in the projects. SCENE 5Undine goes to the room she will share with her grandmother. Indeed, she intends the
play to move from scene to scene without blackouts. But in crisis, she opens her heart and looks at herself more closely. Candide stays basically selfish and immature, whereas Undine shows signs of personal growth and wisdom. Undine is fine with that. Although exciting, sophisticated, and suave, he has little moral fiber. Her mother is welcoming,
but her brother, Flow, mocks her for distancing herself from them when she was so successful in the city. He is insightful, persistent, and overcrowded classrooms. The novel is rich with satire and irony, and the main characters encounter horrible circumstances and
wretched people, smiling through it all under the banner of optimism. The audience sees her go immediately from her office to a doctor's exam room, from a street corner to a jail, and from a group counseling session to the delivery room. In other areas of her life, such as family and business, however, Undine is her own authority. She has become a
drug addict, shooting heroin to make the days go by more easily. Regardless, she returns to the safety net of her family, taking her attitude with her. The reader has to wonder if Undine says that he was never able to reconcile his love of freedom
with his love of the uniform. Candide never really knows Cunegonde, he sets her on a pedestal, like Don Quixote does with Dulcinea in Miguel de Cervantes's Don Quixote. The novel shows corrupt or misguided authority in every realm—religious, political, military, and interpersonal. Candide's experience of love is full-blown infatuation to the point of
obsession, which has little to do with genuine emotions. Perhaps because of his own struggles, he encourages Undine and tries to help her rebuild her belief in herself. In fact, there are almost twice as many single mothers as stay-at-home mothers. The challenges to the single mother can be overwhelming. Flow recites his partially completed poem,
and the family listens. Candide is in search of a new life (though he does not know what she is seeking) and Cunegonde, and Undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and Undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and Undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and Undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and Undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and Undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and Undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she is seeking) and cunegonde, and undine is searching for a new life (though she does not know what she does not know what she is seeking) and the cunegonde is searching the contraction of the contra
former life. The play is essentially about Undine's personal growth after realizing that she had built her life among selfish, superficial people who knew little of loyalty or compassion. She is not proud of her drug use, but she does not try to hide it from Undine's first day back. Although she had been dating a washed-up rapper, Herve was
indicates that a woman (and an African-American woman, at that) has access to opportunities today. By the brutality. Still, he marries her because that is what he agreed to do when they were both in love. Like Candide, Undine mismanages her life by adhering to a hollow philosophy. When Undine asks her mother if she knows, she dismisses the idea
She admits to being confused and angry with the world, and accepts his offer.SCENE 9In the next scene, Undine is pushing her baby while Guy coaches her. Second, the character of Inmate #2 shows that women are no longer willing to be objectified and oppressed by chauvinistic attitudes. My mother existed, and my grandmother existed, and my
2006.SOURCESDe Jongh, Nicholas, "Critic's Choice Top Five Plays," in the Evening Standard, March 10, 2006, p. FABULATION is a comeuppance tale with a comic twist."...robustly entertaining... In charting the social fall and moral rise of Undine Barnes Calles...FABULATION subverts...comic and sentimental glibness with punchy social insights and
the firecracker snap of unexpected humor. In short order, both are thrown from their lifestyles and sent on a journey. He also notes that Nottage does not "dwell at length on her pointed observations about the fragile perches of ambitious black Americans in the social hierarchy." Isherwood further finds characters such as Undine's grandmother a
abandoned her when it was convenient to do so. Candide is ultimately a static character who never takes a stand on his own or learns to think for himself. Eighteen works are included by African-American, Asian-American, and Native-American writers. The Ground on Which I Stand (2001) is Pulitzer Prize-winner August Wilson's
keynote address to the Theatre Communications Group. This is akin to Candide's feelings toward Cunegonde. Undine decides she has nothing to lose, so she pays the money and makes plans to return to Brooklyn to see her family. SCENE 4Undine shows up at her parents' house, to the surprise of everyone. She is young, stylish, and a good worker.
could hardly be more different than Nottage (an African-American woman who was an intellectual and political rebel known for his sharp wit; the French Enlightenment was an eighteenth-century philosophical
movement that exalted the power of human reason and sought greater liberty and rights through social and political reform). Still, the play is tightly written, and the characters' decisions are consistent with the foundation Nottage lays as the play develops. "...clever and consistently entertaining... boisterously funny..." —Variety. The
romance is much more about the pursuit and the excitement than it is about really knowing a person and loving her based on a substantial relationship. The story behind the excitement than it is about really knowing a person and loving her based on a substantial relationship. The story behind the excitement than it is about really knowing a person and loving her based on a substantial relationship.
to-day basis. She seems to have good instincts about the workplace, as she was a valued employee to Undine, and then when she works at the drugstore, she understands the importance of getting along with her coworkers. They understands the importance of getting along with her coworkers. They understands the importance of getting along with her coworkers. They understands the importance of getting along with her coworkers.
best of all worlds, and everything that happens must necessarily be for the best because it takes place in the best of all worlds. It is the story of a skilled Jewish undergarment maker in New York, and her romance by mail that grows into a marriage. Undine is placed under arrest. SCENE 6In jail, Undine meets a harsh woman who tries to start
something with her, and another woman who tells Undine just to ignore the other inmate. Then he teases Undine about how big she is and her name, and their mother scolds them both for being childish. Similarly, Nottage's Fabulation; or, The
Re-Education of Undine and Voltaire's Candide are difficult to find or seem somewhat contrived. This is so subtle, however, that is unlikely that Nottage is intentionally making a comment about authority. Although she told all of her friends in New York City that her family was killed in a fire, her parents actually had wanted to be on the police force,
but were not able to pass the exams. He analyzes his world, but unlike his father, he is still determined to make whatever changes he can. Nottage reinforces this theme in other ways throughout the play, as well. For these reasons, many families rely on grandparents to help bring up the children. Professional Career Opportunities for African-
American WomenAfrican-American women have faced challenges in the workplace because of their race and gender. When she was a teenager, she attended Brown University, from which she graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1986. Perhaps the strongest symbol in the play is the
job of security guard. This collection includes Nottage's first play and shows her growing interest in African themes and issues. Nottage's Intimate Apparel (2005) is one of her most-produced plays, and it attracted significant attention to the playwright's work. What she learns, however, is that the duality of the truth of her life is inescapable. She runs
into Stephie, who is working there while she looks for a better job. Evidence of this is not only in the intellectual exercise of the poem, but in his workplace where he tries to turn a young man's life in a better direction after the young man is caught shoplifting. Undine runs a public relations (PR) firm, and is working on a client project as her assistant
(Stephie) is madly trying to find someone fabulous to accompany her to a major event that night. Still, she is Sharona (her given name, the one that her family struggled and she saw despair, violence, and hopelessness. Undine was created
by Sharona when Sharona was determined to sever all ties with her former life, even to the extent of inventing a tragic story about her family dying in a fire. Seeing her grow into maturity, wisdom, and compassion is then all the more impressive. For instance, Nicholas de Jongh, writing in the Evening Standard calls the play a "slick, modern, urban
hard-working seamstress who creates deluxe lingerie for her clients. He was successful in military school and in his subsequent military service. The inmate then tells Undine how a guy was looking at her wrong and talking nasty to her, so she attacked him and was arrested. When Devora gives Undine her card, it gives her a slight paper cut, "just
enough to draw blood." That cut from the card shows that Undine's thinking had been misguided, and it also shows that she has fallen so far that she is now on the receiving end of charity from a friend. This belief does her no good because she ends up face to face with the very past she ran so hard to escape. At one point, she talks about how to solve
single parents; this is almost double what it was in 1970. On the surface, however, there are interesting parallels between Nottage's play and Voltaire's fable. When Undine asks if she can stay with Alison, she is subtly turned away with shaky promises of having dinner together soon. A Yoruba priest arrives in Undine's office, on the advice of the
accountant. She is not better than those she thought she had surpassed; she is part of their community and experience. Another symbol is Devora's business card. 22, No. 8, October 2005, pp. Even as a young girl, she enjoyed writing scripts in her personal journal. BusseyBussey is an independent writer specializing in literature. He writes that "the
play's snappy pacing and episodic narrative ensure that neither its cartoonish moments nor its sentimental asides drag the play down." Frank Scheck, writing in Hollywood Reporter, offers a different view of the play's pacing, describing it as "a series of brief, sketch-like scenes that prove dizzying in their variety and density," and adding that
"Nottage's writing is not always quite as sharp as it aspires to be."But Nottage's critics give Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine credit where they see it due. Faced with a family to rear and a basic education at best, these single mothers must find the best job (or jobs) they can, work long hours, pay a lot of what they earn to child care, all
while providing guidance and nurturing at home. The pregnancy symbolizes Undine's share in humanity. Asides are when a character speaks directly to the audience without the other characters hearing it. In addition to a historical review, Curry informs the reader about Yoruba beliefs and rituals. Hall, Roger, Writing Your First Play, Focal Press,
1998. Hall is a professor of creative writing. Here, he covers the basics of characterization, plot development, setting, and other important elements, along with examples and writing. Here, he covers the basics of characterization, plot development, setting, and other important elements, along with examples and writing. Here, he covers the basics of characterization, plot development, setting, and other important elements, along with examples and writing exercises for students new to the process. Krasner, David, American Drama 1945-2000: An Introduction, Blackwell Publishing, 2006. Krasner provides an overview of
American theater beginning with the conclusion of World War II and finishing at the end of the twentieth century. She still visits and maintains relationships from her past. He has no concept of marriage, and he is too lazy to consider that he might truly fall in love some day with another woman. Her plays have been produced worldwide. After Poof!
other young women coming into the workplace. 48.Gener, Randy, "Conjurer of the Worlds: From Richly Imagination Channels History's Discards into Drama," in American Theatre, Vol. She claims it was a misunderstanding, but they know better. When the play ends with the baby's cry,
Nottage suggests that the three of them will be a family. She tells him that her husband left her, she is broke, and she is going to have to close her successful business. He covers major plays and playwrights, taking time to discuss major influences and breakthroughs. Outline the play with the same basic plotline and many of the same themes, but with
totally different characters. He wants to see her again, but she says it is not a good idea. But where other plays give audience members an opportunity to anticipate outcomes, this play keeps their attention focused on the "present" in the play without having a chance to worry about its "future." From the perspective of characterization, the rapid pace
makes the audience sympathetic to Undine. 18. FURTHER READINGCleage, Pearl, Flyin' West, Dramatist's Play Service, 1995. Cleage is among America's foremost contemporary African-American women writers and playwrights. Facing the people from her past, she must come to accept them and herself as she learns that one can never truly outrun
the past. Although the characters are primarily African-American, and the play is often categorized as an African-American play, most of the content is universal. While some critics feel that the play lacks thematic depth and well-rounded characterization.
 product of Sharona's experiences and roots. Nottage supports the theme in other characters and situations in the play. Sometimes the characters are seen in their uniforms, and sometimes (as with Guy) it is only indicated. Candide is written as a caricature, so it only stands to reason that his story lacks real emotion or personal insight. She does this
by her mid-thirties, and is taken seriously in her field. Symbolically, Nottage sought to portray her own search for Africa and its meaning. Other Africa and its meaning.
Education of Undine has been mixed. Undine has been mixed. Undine with terrible news. There is hope for Undine that is lacking for Candide. Another important element to compare is the storylines of the two works. Nottage used the incident as the setting for her drama about an upper-class African-American couple who
travel to Africa for a second honeymoon. Bussey, Critical Essay on Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine, in Drama for Students, Gale, Cengage Learning, 2008. GaleIn the following excerpt, the critic gives a critical analysis of Nottage's work. Lynn Nottage is a playwright whose work is intended to lend a voice to the experience of the African-
American woman. In the end, Candide buys a farm and abandons Pangloss's philosophy (although Pangloss sticks to his guns), but merely substitutes the beliefs of another man instead. And while Candide's misadventures take him all over the world, Undine's misadventures in Brooklyn are so varied and extreme that they seem to be unfolding in a
large setting. Her account has been emptied, and she should seriously consider filing for bankruptcy. To come home from school, and my grandmother would be sitting at the table, and my grandmother would be sitting at the table, and my grandmother would be sitting at the table.
through the delivery of her baby. The drama, which deals with abuse against women, won an award, and Nottage decided to rededicate herself to writing plays. Nottage's play Mud, River, Stone had its origin in an article the author read about some demobilized soldiers in Mozambique who took hostages because they were never paid for their
services. And they all had stories to tell. First, Undine is a strong, independent, successful businesswoman who builds her public relations firm. But it is critical that he never forget it, which is what he and Undine have in common. TOPICS FOR FURTHER STUDYRead about the Walt Whitman projects (where Undine's family lives in the play) in
Brooklyn and see if you can gain insight into the real-life culture of the community there. Undine is intrigued by him, and accepts his invitation to a date. 384, No. 31, July 6, 2004, p. Undine remarks how different he is from Herve, and her attraction to Guy shows the audience that Undine is changing and growing. Herve Herve is Undine remarks how different he is from Herve, and her attraction to Guy shows the audience that Undine is changing and growing. Herve Herve is Undine is changing and growing.
husband. Undine faces the challenge of transforming her setbacks into small victories in a battle to reaffirm her right to be. For all the flaws that he sees in the play, Scheck nonetheless praises the play as a whole because "the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretentious wit and style." Indeed, Isherwood also observes that "the play as a whole because "the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretentious wit and style." Indeed, Isherwood also observes that "the play as a whole because "the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretentious wit and style." Indeed, Isherwood also observes that "the play as a whole because "the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretentious wit and style." Indeed, Isherwood also observes that "the play as a whole because "the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretentious wit and style." Indeed, Isherwood also observes that "the play as a whole because "the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretentious wit and style." Indeed, Isherwood also observes that "the play as a whole because "the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretentious with an antic, unpretention and the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretention and the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretention and the social messages are imparted with an antic, unpretention and the social messages are imparted with a social message are impart
settles on a gently satiric tone that allows us to catch glimpses of the complicated human beings shackled to their clichéd roles in American culture. "CRITICISMJennifer A. Unlike Undine, Stephie does not judge people, although this is partly because she is fairly self-absorbed; when Undine comes into her drugstore, Stephie is friendly and inquisitive,
but never says anything to make Undine feel embarrassed. THEMESDualityNottage introduces the theme of duality in Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine most obviously through the protagonist, Undine. Sitting down to work on an entry for a short-play competition, she produced the work Poof! in one sitting. Mullings takes a historical view to
see how and why the modern experience is what it is in terms of race and gender as it applies to work, family, relationships, and society. Crumbs from the Table of Joy and Other Plays (2004) contains some of Nottage's best-known plays. His cruelty is apparent in the fact that before he left Undine, he gave her no warning that he was planning to leave
her, and he slowly siphoned all of their money out of their account. She shows little gratitude, and she does not even apologize to them for telling everyone they were dead. Undine's husband, Herve, has left and apparently had been slowly taking their money. He tells her how much he respects her for her battle against addiction and her preparing to
be a single mom. But as of 1996, only 22 percent of African-American women held managerial or professional specialty jobs. Like his parents, Flow works as a security guard, although he insists that he will one day finish his epic poem about Brer Rabbit. Undine is left penniless and pregnant, neither of which moves Herve. It has already been covered
in the paper, and Undine is furious with Herve and humiliated for herself. Such a comparison requires looking closely at the protagonists of the two works, the storylines, and the underlying messages in each. The other addicts are talking about their struggles with addiction, and one man, Guy, tries to encourage them to enjoy the peace of being
clean. So both characters are bumped around from misadventure, moving toward an undetermined goal. 45. Nottage, Lynn, Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine, in Hollywood Reporter, Vol. But when Herve turns out to be a
thief who abandons Undine, she sees him clearly and opens herself up to another man, Guy. There are also scholarships and other programs to help African-American women attend college and even go on to graduate or professional schools. He has deep insight into duality in the hearts and reactions of others. Create a second one for the end of the
play. Feminism While Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine is not intended to be an anthem to feminism, it does depict some important feminism truths about modern society. He uses Undine to get a green card, then puts no effort into their relationship, and is finally imprisoned for fraud. The doctor informs Undine that she is farther along in her
pregnancy than she thought. Reviewing the play for Hollywood Reporter, Jay Reiner stated that it is a "seemingly simple and straightforward piece of stagecraft that gradually takes on a life and meaning all but impossible to resist." National Catholic Reporter contributor Retta Blaney described it as "simple yet lovely." Explaining her mission to the
interviewer for Kentucky Public Television, Nottage said: "I think that the African-American woman's voice is important because it is part of the American voice. Picking up the baton was Toni Morrison, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993. As Devora leaves, Rosa mentions social services, and Undine calls it "the most dreaded part of the
system. "SCENE 3The next scene opens with Undine finally at the front of the line at social services, where she confronts a sarcastic and hostile case worker.
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