

MARK SAVITT REVIEWS SAFE for HI DRAMA

Written by Penny Jackson

Directed by Glory Kadigan

Nina (Meghan St. Thomas) is a troubled high school student. Her mom is in rehab for alcoholism, and her estranged and divorced dad (Joel Nagle) with whom she must now live, has always been too busy to take care of her. Nina is overweight and her classmates bully her about it. Her only friend, Liz (Jill Shackner) is also troubled. Liz is anorexic and her mom is frequently busy with drugs and boyfriends. A caring young math and English teacher (Sawyer Spielberg) may be the solution to Nina's problems. On the other hand, as sexually more experienced Liz suspects, he may be another big problem. Is it possible to be safe in this world now? What does safety mean, or even look like now?

Writer Penny Jackson has created extraordinarily complex and vibrant young female characters and director Glory Kadigan has shaped the performances expertly to bring out every nuance.