

SYNOPSIS OF *THE DRAPER'S EYE*

(two acts; fifteen scenes)

TIME: The present, past, and possible future

PLACE: A stylized set represents various locations in the Garment District of New York City: Portia's apartment, Spindle's Fabric Shop, and glimpses from a parallel universe

CHARACTERS:

PENELOPE MELTON, an orchestral violinist; late twenties

PORTIA MELTON, Penelope's younger sister, a costumer; early twenties

RACHEL MELTON, Penelope's and Portia's mother, a textile executive; fifty

GEORGETTE FOULARD, Portia's caregiver; mid-forties

NATHAN WOOLSEY, a photographer; early thirties

JULIAN DORNICK, a British-born journalist; mid-thirties

KATRINA SPINDLE, a German-born shopkeeper; mid-sixties

SIEGFRIED SPINDLE, her German-born nephew; late twenties

PLOT SYNOPSIS: From her apartment in the Garment District of New York, Penelope Melton, a violinist, speaks to hidden cameras recording her every move. She recounts the humbling decline of her dying sister, Portia, who spends hours staring out a window facing Spindle's Fabric Shop. Portia notices that the feeble and infirm women who enter the shop never leave, so suspecting a nefarious gendercidal scheme, she entreats Penelope to investigate. Once inside the shop, Penelope meets Katrina Spindle and her handsome nephew, Siegfried, a former physics prodigy who asks Penelope to play her violin. While she complies, he falls desperately in love. Gazing out her window, and fearing for Penelope's life, Portia leaves the apartment and ventures into the shop with her caretaker. Relieved that her sister is unharmed, Portia meanders around, admiring the fabrics, then suddenly disappears. A police investigation ensues, involving a photographer and journalist who spread news of the mysterious shop and its vanishing customers. Both Siegfried and Penelope become suspects, and while Penelope continues searching for Portia, Siegfried attempts to prove the existence of folds in a fabric that lead through unseen dimensions to a parallel universe.

THEMES: *The Draper's Eye* explores the metaphysical implications of recent theories in physics, as well as the effects of globalization on The Garment District industries. The play can also be perceived as a metaphorical exploration of conflicted feelings in a family where death is imminent.

