



Arts & Culture

Troubling story that skates over its dark heart

THEATRE Mother of Him

Park Theatre, N4

★☆☆☆☆

Jessie Thompson

THERE'S a 24-hour news van parked outside Brenda's house. The phone won't stop ringing. She gets papped every time she leaves home. It's not ideal. What's even less ideal is that her son, Matthew, has raped three women and is under house arrest.

Evan Placey's play, set in Nineties Toronto and based on a true story, explores how a mother reconciles her love for her son when he has done something reprehensible.

As Brenda, Tracy Ann Oberman, below, vamps around like Margo Channing on the hunt for a Tony. It's Big Acting, but her presence is so magnetic that she's always watchable.

Max Lindsay's production goes from zero to 10 in the blink of an eye. In one scene, Brenda tells her son he has raped her of everything but hate; Jennifer Paige's Crush comes on; then there's a voiceover about Bill Clinton. It's a lot.

But most troublingly, in exploring Brenda's dilemma Placey makes Matthew's crime almost incidental. He seems implausibly indifferent to the seriousness of his actions. Maybe rapists don't go on narrative journeys. Or maybe it's just bad writing.

● Until October 26
(020 7870 6876;
parktheatre.co.uk)



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS BIRCH

WEST END THEATRES

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Roll up for Frieze

ART

Make plans for the biggest week in the London art year with *Jessie Thompson's* guide to all the best shows and events

THE FAIRS Frieze London

Regent's Park, NW1, Oct 3-6

A gathering of all the world's top contemporary art galleries in one tent, with most works for sale. Check out the special sections for new galleries too, as well as the programme of talks and events. frieze.com

Frieze Masters

Regent's Park, NW1, Oct 3-6

This sister event across the park covers art from the ancient world, Old Masters and 20th-century modern stars. frieze.com

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair

Somerset House, WC2

Oct 3-6

The seventh edition of the fair dedicated to sales of new work from Africa and its diaspora. 1-54.com/london

British Art Fair

Saatchi Gallery, SW3

Oct 3-6

Barbara Hepworth, David Hockney and Grayson Perry are among those featured in this event dedicated to 20th-century and contemporary British art. britishartfair.co.uk

PAD London

Berkeley Square, W1

Sept 30-Oct 6

Classic modernist and contemporary furniture are the stars of this annual design and decorative arts fair. pad-fairs.com

MUSEUMS AND MAJOR PUBLIC GALLERIES

Kara Walker

Tate Modern, SE1

Oct 2-Apr 5

The American

artist known for her paper cut-outs dealing with race and gender takes on the annual Turbine Hall commission. tate.org.uk

Into the Night: Cabarets & Clubs in Modern Art

Barbican Art Gallery, EC2, Oct 4-Jan 19

Rock up for this show exploring some of the most creative meeting spaces of the 20th century, from Berlin to New York. barbican.org.uk

Mark Leckey: O' Magic Power of Bleakness

Tate Britain, SW1, Until Jan 5

The Turner Prize-winning artist presents a show featuring new films and a reconstruction of a motorway bridge. tate.org.uk

Antony Gormley

Royal Academy, W1, Until Dec 3

Part of the RA is flooded with seawater for this major retrospective of the Angel of the North artist's work. royalacademy.org.uk

Mary Sibande: I Came Apart at the Seams

Somerset House, WC2

Oct 3-Jan 5

The South African artist uses photography and sculpture to explore postcolonial narratives. somersethouse.org.uk

SMALLER PUBLIC GALLERIES

Rembrandt's Light

Dulwich Picture Gallery, SE21, Oct 4-Feb 2

Landmark show looking at the great painter's use of light to mark 350 years since his death. dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Albert Oehlen

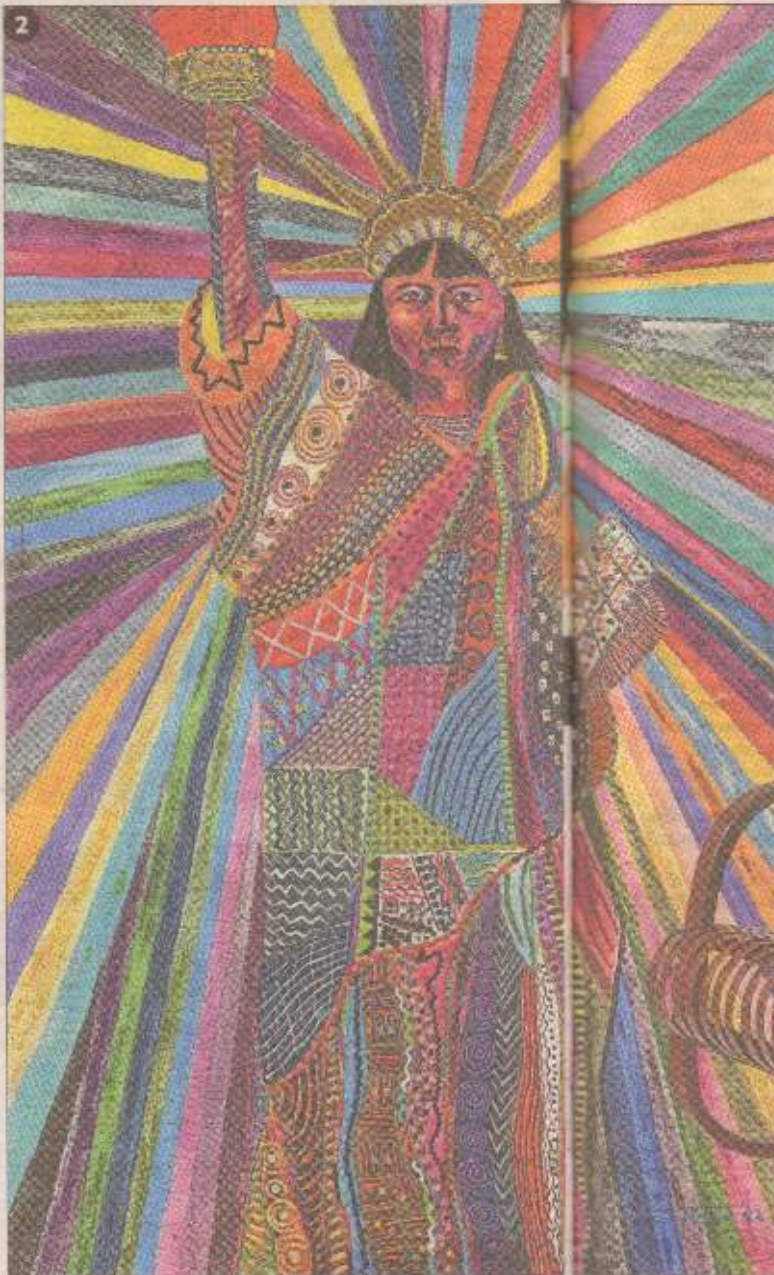
Serpentine Galleries, W2

Oct 2-Feb 2

The German artist's



PHOTOGRAPH BY COURTESY OF GORMLEY



Interpretation of the Rothko's chapel in Texas is the centrepiece here. serpentinegalleries.org

Honey-Suckle Company: Omnibus

ICA, SW1. Oct 2-Jan 12
Retrospective of the Berlin art collective's interventions into fashion, music and art. ica.art

Anna Maria Maiolino

Whitechapel Gallery, E1. Until Jan 12
Art made out of mud features in the first major retrospective of the Brazilian artist's 60-year career. whitechapelgallery.org

Jonathan Baldock

Fitzrovia Chapel, W1. Oct 2-5
Interact with the artist's intimate four-poster bed in the resplendent setting of the Fitzrovia Chapel. fitzroviachapel.org

Art of the matter:

1, Untitled by Cy Twombly at Gagosian; **2**, LA Liberty by Pacita Abad, on show on the Silverlens stand at Frieze London; **3**, Cebo II by Zanele Muholi in Rock My Soul at Victoria Miro; **4**, armchair by Ubuñj Kidokoro (1937), on sale at PAD; **5**, Antony Gormley at the Royal Academy; **6**, Kara Walker at Tate Modern

COMMERICAL GALLERIES

Grayson Perry: Super Rich Interior Decoration

Victoria Miro Mayfair, W1. Until Dec 20

Britain's top potter casts his mischievous eye on the uneasy relationship between money and art. victoria-miro.com

Nate Lowman

David Zwirner, W1. Oct 3 to Nov 9
New paintings based on crime scene photos from the 2017 Las Vegas shooting. davidzwirner.com

Ai Weiwei: Roots

Lisson Gallery, NW1. Oct 2-Nov 2
The Chinese dissident artist shows politically-charged works built from Lego alongside monumental sculptures made from tree roots. lissongallery.com

Rock My Soul & Doug Aitken: Return to the Real

Victoria Miro, N1. Oct 2-Dec 20
Filmmaker Isaac Julien curates Rock My Soul, a show by black women artists (to Nov 2), while the American artist Doug Aitken unveils new sound and light sculptures. victoria-miro.com

Cy Twombly: Sculpture

Gagosian, W1. Sep 30-Dec 21
Rare show of sculpture by the late, great American painter, who died in 2011. gagosian.com

Mona Hatoum

White Cube Bernardsey, SE1. Until Nov 3
New and recent work by the British-Palestinian artist known for her visceral installations, often about the uncanny space of the home. whitecube.com