

THE NEW YORK THEATER REVIEW

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A Disaster Begins and THE COIL FEST at PS122



presented in COIL by [PS122](#) and [Pick Up Performance Co\(s\)](#)

I have a thing for word choice. There's nothing sharper and more specific than a the perfect word at the perfect time to describe the exact experience.

In *A Disaster Begins* Ain Gordon's one woman show (a vulnerably nuanced performance by Joanna P. Adler) Gordon writes:

"I want to be a great writer. And I want you all to be as carnivorous"

Carnivorous. To be a carnivore is simply to eat meat. To be carnivorous is to crave nourishment from feasting on live flesh. Feasting. On. Live. Flesh.

And that's what we have in *A Disaster Begins*- perhaps a metaphor for the COIL FESTIVAL itself, a gathering of electrically live charges even in moments of stillness, each offering satisfying different tastes and cravings, undeniably ALIVE, leaving us wanting more.

A Disaster Begins; Muriel, a stern and awkward writer of fiction is scheduled give a lecture to an invited audience (on Monday a sold out house in PS122's downstairs space) on her best selling work; *the terror of the flood*. Upon arriving she announces that she can not or no longer is able to explain the lecture. Instead she deconstructs childhood fantasies and memories to transcend a puritanical and unstable childhood, using the 1900 flood in Galveston TX as a window into the examination of building in places prone to instability. The more destabilizing her lecture becomes the more truthfully she speaks, jacket removed and soaking wet by the end of the lecture.

Previously this work has been produced at HERE ARTS but it's really too bad that the only performance in COIL was last Monday. Perhaps an act of brilliance - leaving us carnivorous, wanting more.

COIL FEST is running through 1/16 , more info at ps122.org

Posted by Jody Christopherson at [12:03 PM](#)  