



Double Indemnity at the SJ Repertory

By [Cynthia Corral](#)

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[Double Indemnity](#) is now playing at the [San Jose Repertory](#), and what better way to enjoy this fun production than with a “**Noir Fashion Night**”?



Carrie Paff as Phyllis Nirlinger and John Bogar as Walter Huff.
Photo by Chris Bennion.

The Rep is hosting the world premiere run of James M. Cain’s famous noir classic, co-produced with Seattle’s A Contemporary Theatre. Five outstanding actors from Seattle and the Bay Area bring loosely set curls, fedoras, and a whole lot of talent to the stage in this intriguing tale of greed, lust and murder.

Carrie Paff plays Phyllis Nirlinger, the femme fatale who collects men (and bodies) the way insurance agent Walter Huff (John Bogar) collects deductibles. The two come together to hatch a diabolical plan to kill Phyllis’s husband and collect a huge insurance payout – paying on the double indemnity clause by having him fall from a moving train. The plot takes several twists and turns, the characters surprise you, and it was

entertaining enough for much debate and discussion during intermission. Will they get away with it? Who will end up taking the fall? What role will Lola play in the end?

Although I don’t think the initial connection the two main characters felt was well established in the opening scenes, after a slightly slow start the plot soon takes off and will captivate you. The intricately revolving stage design quickly transformed from train yard to insurance office to different residences, and having one particular dead

body slowly revolve in a complete circle was quite impactful. For all the darkness in the plot, there is also quite a lot of comedy in the dialog and situations, and overall this is quite an enjoyable evening.



Walter Huff contemplates what he's done for Phyllis.
Photo by Chris Bennion.



Noir fashion at its finest. Photo by Chris Bennion.

But why not take it to the next level by dressing in your own noir fashion? On Saturday, January 21 during the 8pm performance The Rep is hosting Noir Fashion Night, featuring **special fashion displays, themed drink specials, and a photographer** to capture all the fedora-clad fun before the show. Dress in your finest 1930s to 1940s fashion, and enjoy

all the fun — included in the price of your ticket! Doors open 1 hour prior to the performance, and you must have a ticket to gain entrance. This is a guaranteed fun and special event.