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Embracing the present: "Future" brings up the past for Donna Bullock & Michael T. Weiss.

## A comedy of radical changes

In David Hay's dark comedy **"A Perfect Future,"** John (Michael T. Weiss), a well-heeled Wall Streeter, and his filmmaker wife, Natalie (Donna Bullock), host a dinner for Elliot (Daniel Oreskes), an old friend from their days as college extremists. Also on hand for some radicalism-redux and risotto is a surprise guest, Mark (Scott Drummond), a rising young exec at John's firm.

John collects fine wine. Before you can say "essential Burgundy," the vino flows. (I lost count at 12 bottles.) As it pours, the conversation and conduct goes from politely bottled-up to brazenly uncensored to poisonously racist.

Plying characters with booze to unleash true characters is a familiar, perhaps too familiar, device. On the plus side, Hay's dialogue is sharp and funny, and there's something neatly ironic about ex-revolutionaries all are in need of sweeping changes.

Director Wilson Milam guides the production with a sure hand, from its move-in-ready Manhattan apartment designed by Charles Corcoran to its fine cast who are all up to par – or in one case, even better. Delivering a performance that's sexy, smart and completely natural, Bullock is, simply, a corker.

**Joe Dziemianowicz**

*Cherry Lane Theatre, 38 Commerce St. Tickets, \$69; (212) 239-6200.*