

On Stage

Master of His Domain

What's wrong with this picture? Nothing, as far as **Jerry Stiller's** concerned. He's starring in the Broadway comedy of the same name; radio spots written, produced, and performed by him and his wife, Anne Meara, continue to appear with pleasing regularity; the kids are in the business (God help them) and doing well (his son directed *Reality Bites*; his daughter does stand-up); and he may even squeeze in another appearance or two this year on *Seinfeld* if they call. However, it would be nice if his character in the play were a little younger. For an earlier version of the Donald Margulies comedy, "I read for the part of the son, Alan Rosenberg's character," says Stiller.

"I had no idea that I would be right for the grandfather one day." Substantially revised, *What's Wrong With This Picture?* is "the story of a family sitting shiva, and this happens to be my daughter-in-law [Faith Prince]. We find out everyone's feelings about her. In my case, I'm a 75-year-old ex-taxi driver whose license has been revoked, and I was in love with this woman for twenty years while she was married to my son." That's amazing, but not as amazing as what being on a hit show can do for an actor.

"I'm really kind of in shock," says Stiller, who plays the father of George on *Seinfeld*. "People on the street give me all kinds of comments on why I'm too rough on George, why I'm not *rougher* on George. A man said to me, 'What are you doing to our generation? You're making us parents look like fools.' People stop their cars in traffic to talk to me. Suddenly your stock goes up and you're back on Broadway again."



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