

Play Reviewed: #1314 - A Theatrical Poem

Concept, Director and Adapter: Ata Wong 黃俊達

Performers: Théâtre De La Feuille 綠葉劇團

Date of Performance: 26 December 2021

Time of Performance: 15:00 (approximately 70 minutes long)

Venue of Performance: Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall 沙田大會堂演奏廳

Author of Review: G7 Eddie Yang Lijia 楊櫟嘉

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Poems, as everyone knows, is a form of literary expression put in simple, expressive lines, but this play gives us a completely new perspective to poetry through its adaptation of Shakespeare's famous Sonnets into a full play, adding a whole other level to the striking story told in the Sonnets.

The story of William, a man torn between the romantic choice of a middle-aged Mandarin-speaking woman madly in love with him, and a young woman who he pursues after and has returned slight feelings. Is it better to accept someone devoted to you, or someone that you desire? Through the simple, impressive words of the Sonnets, an emotional roller-coaster is told which embodies the complexity of love.

Most of the scenes were of simple (yet meaningful) dialogue, accompanied by graceful dance routines and steps. In some particular scenes, the acrobatic skills of the actors contribute to the artistic level of the play. However, one of the scenes breaks away from this convention, highlighting an integral part of the play's theme: decision-making. Every decision you make can have an impact on your life, large or small.

The scene mentioned suddenly changes from a peaceful and artistic mood to, more or less, a violent scuffle. William has a sudden change of heart and pushes away the middle-aged woman, who declares her open and unwavering love for him, tries to go back to him every time he pushes her away, finally culminating in William dragging her to the back of the stage, leaving her laughing maniacally.

Another scene, in which the chorus members form a circle around the middle-aged woman and William reverses his decision, desperately trying to send the chorus spinning away as two men, symbolizing obstacles and men fighting for her love, engage in a (rather noticeably) fake fight, leaving William the victor as he finally claims his love.

At the end of the play, several iron bars were lowered. As confusing as they seemed, the bars symbolized the gradual building of a brick wall standing in the way of William, which was

demolished through his strong feelings and passion, evidenced by the eventual raising of the bars. What does this tell us? Nothing can stop love, not even metal, symbolizing a hard, cold barrier between William and his lovers.

Finally, William chooses the middle-aged woman, but that doesn't mean that we should all follow his choice. After all, no one can set the conventions of love, a feeling embedded in the human heart - they can only oppress it like a spring forced to bend down, but in the end, the spring will always jump back up, one way or another - true resistance to the brutal ravages of reality.