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THEA 101-08

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Interpreting *Translations*

Overall, I enjoyed the performance. Based on the image printed on the ticket and flyers around campus, I went into the show expecting the main plot to be about a romance. Even though it was not the main plot, the romance was still a part of the show. The one thing I did not like about the show was the ending. I am a sucker for a happy ending and this show ended on a cliffhanger. There were questions I had that never got answered and that bothered me a little bit.

The ensemble really did work well together during the play. They would build off of each other’s energy and listen to each other during the pay. Even if an actor wasn’t a main character, they still gave a hundred percent to their performances. Manus, played by Harrison Gray, really put his all into the character. I could tell that his character was lame not only because other characters mentioned it, but because of the way he carried himself. He would walk up and down the steps one at a time while the other characters would easily run up the steps. When Gray would have to run, he would run slower than others and keep one leg stiff. It was the same when he was dancing. He was able to keep me in disbelief by maintaining his limp and sticking to his character. In Act Two, during the dancing scene, I noticed Garrett D. Reese, who plays Yolland, standing to the side downstage left. Even though he was to the side and not participating in the dance, Reese was still paying attention. He was doing a little dance in place and trying to imitate the moves that the Irish characters were dancing. It showed that he was paying attention to the scene and staying in character. The cast was also a color-blind cast, in my opinion. I thought this because Garrett D. Reese is an African American actor who is playing an esteemed British soldier. Based on the time period, I don’t believe that African Americans would hold such high rankings in the army.

One actor that I thought did really well was Owen, played by Matt Howard. Howard’s character seemed a bit more difficult to act because he had to constantly switch from an Irish accent to an English accent. He had to think about which accent he had to speak along with remembering his blocking and lines. Howard was actually one of the easiest actors to understand, in both accents. His facial expressions were some of the best during the entire show. When Howard’s father would talk, I could tell he did not like his father because of his facial expressions. He never voiced his dislike, but I could see it in his face because he would get this sour look on his face whenever his father would speak.

I think that this play was a good choice for the actors in training because it gives them acting skills that could be beneficial if they choose to pursue professional acting careers. This play gave them experience in using accents, which can be very hard for some people. An Irish accent isn’t the easiest accent to learn and maintain either, so I thought the cast did a pretty good job. I wouldn’t recommend this to my friends just because I don’t think they would appreciate the play and its message. I do think that anyone who likes theatre would like the play.

P.S. At the end of the play, Hugh is standing at the top of steps that were upstage right.