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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 1 Drama 2024

91943 Respond to a drama performance

EXEMPLAR

Achievement

TOTAL 03

AS-91943: Responding to a drama performance

Student NSN	<div></div>
Title of performance	Into the woods
Author of performance	Stephen Sondheim
Theater company	Regents Park Open Air Theatre
Performance type	Live recorded performance

Cast members

Narrator - Eddie Manning
Cinderella - Heilen Dallimore
Jack - Ben Stott
Baker - Mark Hadfield
Baker's Wife - Jenna Russell
Cinderella's Stepmother - Gaye brown
Florinda - Amy Ellen Richardson
Lucina - Amy Griffiths
Jack's Mother - Marilyn Cutts
Little Red Riding Hood - Beverly Rudd
Witch - Hannah Waddingham
Cinderella's Mother - Gemma Wardle
Mysterious man - Billy Boyle
Wolf / Cinderella's Prince - Michael Xavier
Grandmother - Valda Aviks
Rapunzel - Alice Fearn
Rapunzel's Prince - Simon Thomas
Steward - Mark Goldthorp
Snow White/Harp - Sophie Caton
Woodsman - Marc Antolin
Voice of the giant - Judi Dench

Introduction

In the recorded live performance named 'into the woods' by Stephen Sondheim, was about a lot of characters that are inspired from popular fairy tales going into the woods to solve their problems that they have. The protagonist of the story is the baker and his wife which they were cursed by a witch because one of the baker's ancestors had stolen some of the witches beans and other things that turned her into a ugly monster, because of that the witch placed a curse on the couple making it so that the baker and his wife cannot have any children unless they help her become beautiful again by getting 4 different items from different fairy tales to lift the curse and to make the witch beautiful again and that impact me in engaging into the story wanting to know what going to happen next.

Important part of the story that impact me the most

In the performance i watched there were alot of things that made the play more interesting and emotional. But out of all of the scenes and acts in the performance there was one particular part that impact me the most and that was in Act II when the baker lost his wife and was grieving, he was going to abandon the baby because of such. But then the 'mysterious man' appears and convinced him to not do the same mistake he did and then the music came in and the baker started singing. Him saying 'No more' a few times when he song made me feel sympathetic for him because the baker most likely didn't want to go back into the forest anymore after losing his wife and just wanted to run away just like the mysterious man did. But as the song continues he finds confidence to go back into the forest and face his fears and that made me feel hopeful for him. Later in the story the wife's spirit appears above the baker telling him he's never alone and that she will always be with him even though she has died.

Techniques used in the performance

In the performance they used all 4 of the techniques to give an impact on the audiences emotions. When they used the space technique they made it so that the audience were able to picture different places even though it was just one area which gave impact in certain parts of the story. When they used the body technique it made it easier for the actor to express emotions out freely and the audience able to tell how they are feeling clearly. As for voice that was used mostly due to a lot of dialog they had and because it was a musical performance we could still understand what they were saying even though they were speaking very fast mostly in the songs they sang. For movement they instead of talking to another character face to face they spoke out to the darkness which was the audience that made the audience feel more engaged in the play.

Elements used in the performance

The elements that they used in the performance were all of them but what I saw in the performance the most was tension. Because when the actors change the speed of their singing and the music becomes more serious and then becomes calm again it made me and probably the whole audience go on a ride of emotions and goosebumps. Another element I see a lot in the performance is the place, even though it is on 1 stage they make it so that there are different places like from the bakers home to red riding hood's grandmother's house which makes me feel more engaged in the story.

Technologies in the performance

For technologies all of them were used but what I saw that they used the most was music. All technologies including make up, costumes, lighting, props and the 3 leveled staging were well integrated to combine all fairy tales into one. The coordination between the choreography and the music and sound efx impacted me and the audience by emphasizing important moments in the story. These moments make me feel confronted and empathetic towards the characters. My response to these feelings was to applaud and make me think of the possibilities that may result.

Conclusion

In conclusion the wairua of a live performance has impacted me and influenced me wanting to see more theater. And the themes that were in “into the words” of being never alone and that we work together as a communities then on your own to confront your fears is a better option rather than not facing them. In reflection, this is something we can all do better. “Into the woods” was a inspiring production that has sparked my interest to see more.

Achievement

Subject: Drama

Standard: 91943

Total score: 03

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	A3	<p>This candidate described a key message, components, and personal connections to the performance. The candidate has been awarded an A3 grade, as their description was quite generalised, and evidence was limited. The candidate has provided a character list and described the plot, neither of which are necessary to meet assessment requirements.</p> <p>For a higher Achievement grade, the candidate needed to describe with evidence, such as identifying key scenes / moments from the performance where components are used. The candidate's response to the effect of wairua in the performance was also generalised and required further unpacking.</p> <p>Key message(s) were described generally at the end of the response. The response was missing specific detail required for Merit – for example, unpacking a scene in the performance where components were used and explaining the intended effect.</p>