



Lion in the Streets

Written by Judith Thompson

Directed by Danielle Wilson / Scenography by David Vivian

February 16, 17, 18, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.

Student Matinee: Friday, February 17, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

The Play

Winner of the 1991 Chalmers Outstanding New Play Award, *Lion in the Streets* is a nightmare, in which the obsessions of each character erupts forth in heightened, surreal and imagistic language. The young protagonist, a Portuguese immigrant to Toronto named Isobel, is a ghost in a purgatorial condition who deftly moves in and out of critical, extreme moments in each of the character's lives.

A series of interconnected episodes which provide graphic glimpses into desperate lives advances through the passage of the characters from one scene into the next. The play is constructed like a ritualistic dance; the characters moving through a shared theatrical space, their expressions and actions witnessed by the ever-present Isobel who spends much of the play searching for the man who killed her seventeen years prior.

The play is written by Judith Thompson, one of Canada's most prolific and provocative playwrights. *Lion in the Streets* continues to be one of her most known and popular plays. High School students will be confronted with daring subject matter which could provide context and relevance to their lives. The play reveals themes of repressed violence and sexuality, identity and death. Although the subject matter is dark there are also moments of humour, hope and redemption or what Judith Thompson calls "moments of grace" and forgiveness.

Artistic Direction

This production embodies our contemporary quest for faith, truth, and "a state of grace," while contending with the absurdity of daily life. In order to elucidate Thompson's heightened, surreal and imagistic language, original and 20th century music underscore critical moments with moments of contemporary movement choreographed by Gerald Trentham, Artistic Director of Toronto's Pounds Per Square Inch Performance company. Our production will showcase eight Brock students playing a total of 29 roles, with additional assistance from students studying the areas of production, stagecraft, design and directing.

Curriculum Ties

Links include social justice, psychology, sociology and Canadian theatre. This provocative and theatrically engaging show has some mature themes and is recommended to students in grade 11 and 12.

Student Matinee Booking

The student matinee for *Lion in the Streets* is Friday, February 17, 2012 at 11:30 a.m., held in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre. Tickets for the student matinee are \$10 for each student and teacher. To book your school, please telephone the Centre for the Arts Box Office, 905-688-5550 ext. 3257, long distance toll free 1-866-617-3257, and reserve your group tickets.

The deadline for reservation by telephone is Friday, February 10, 2012 for *Lion in the Streets*. Once you have made your booking through the Centre for the Arts, I will confirm your reservation by telephone on Monday, February 13, 2012.

Study Guide/School Outreach

Study guides contain background information and research articles that provide critical information for use in the classroom. A study guide will be available online at the end of January 2012 and can be viewed on our website: www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/dramatic-arts/events

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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