

The Waiting Gates / Sheshatshiu

Story / Theme / Theatre device

Great plot / inventive and fantastical with very compelling and spiritual messages / fantastic writing!

Characters are clearly outlined and writing reveals their personalities very well / we can feel we know someone like that in our lives

Writing is very natural / feels like it was improvised to script / not over written

It is funny / funny comes from the relationships which is always the richest form of humour in script writing / we begin to predict how characters will respond and this is enjoyable and related for an audience, often funny / this can only happen when the characters have been clearly developed.

The idea of reuniting with a loved one really moved me.

The judgment room is treated with a ritualistic tone and practice which engages the audience. The Council who do not speak but discuss quietly adds humour to the scene and drama as we wait for their decision.

Characters / Acting

The character who has been stuck there for a while and feeling resentful, Damon, is a great example of this and is also a great way for the audience to be informed about what happens in this place in a very humorous tone. Damon is a fun character which is portrayed well by the actor / the actor does not need to laugh at the end of their funny lines, better to leave that to the audience. Damon can be pretty dramatic and it can be tempting to laugh after his lines but it serves the play better to stay cool and serious.

The room facilitator, Celeste, is cheerful which is very helpful to keep the mood up in the room. The suspense of not knowing where they are needs to be managed by someone otherwise chaos would ensue. Nice character touch, and well played by the actor with a light touch and a sense of curiosity - well that is an interesting question..... and care for the people who are arriving at the waiting gate.

Braxton is played with tension and believable fear and confusion. great job portraying this role. As the hero in the story we follow their journey with anticipation, especially when they are met with the secret of Damon.

The judge is played with consistent calm and reason. The person who is being judged is treated with respect. Nicely done. When they are challenged by the Damon character who does not respect the space, they use the gavel to regain order. It is done with strength. The audience feels satisfied that order is restored.

The secondary characters are played well without taking away from the main story. The reunions with loved ones are at times funny and at times very moving.

Beautiful moment with the elders being reunited

The older gentleman does a wonderful job of aging his body with his pacing when walking and his voice. The actor needs to speak more clearly from the voice they have found so that we don't miss a single word. great physical acting!

Staging

Love the staging with the split stage / it works so well to outline the two worlds and does not need any other set pieces / removes the need to blackouts.

The group is supporting each other in the waiting room which feels kind of fun and makes the audience want to know more about the space.

This is a great acting company! You worked together so well, supporting the story with your clear portrayals of characters on a journey!!!

Wela'lin!

Bravo!!!