

Bradley Trevisone

23 April 2024

Fools and All

I solidly enjoyed the play and I definitely found myself laughing at things either no one was laughing at or a line before everyone else. Part of why I think that was the fact I sat stage right and could see the characters faces more clearly if they were talking to each other. I thought the characters had very good physical reactions to what was being said, not overtly on the head but I'm also aware of how subtle the action is. For me, it plays into that idea of 'self-entertainment' or 'imposed circumstances' that makes something funny rather than being a joke.

There were moments in the play where I wished that it were a little bit *more* leaning into this awareness comedy. I remembered from my last Shakespeare class my professor would say how people didn't take themselves too seriously and boys who played girl characters would come out in their normal clothes then say "oh I'm Helena and I'm in a play." I couldn't help myself from thinking about some of the scenes. I thought the Fool character was 'trying to instigate' characters but I always thought of them as 'mocking' and more on the 'self entertainment' side. I think it made me hopeful to see a play with this laughing at self ability, such as the fool character watching a boring court scene with the duke from the balcony then climbing down the side of the building to head off stage. Maybe a more over the top physical comedy all around is just my taste. I did say I laughed when no one else did.

My biggest take away from the play is the fact it seemed to be slightly all over the place. There's felt like a lot of self awareness on Shakespeare's half as a writer that made me question why this "he only wrote plays" for money seems to be so prominent in anyone discussing the play. When this play offers so much diverse plot, drama, music, love, and comedic circumstances (one that involves reversal of 'law'), I found myself tuning out at the times of the Act I Act II where it was a Duke centered act. I talked to Julia who noted the actress did her lines too fast, which is fair, but I took it as noticing what makes you tune out and what draws you in. Like the Lamentable character who got everybody laughing with his line "and I shall seek to kill every first born son in all in Egypt" who then began to get no laughs, then again won the audience's favor as he involved himself in this love plot that was funny and romantic.


I think I can understand a little bit of the perspective of why some people may only enjoy reading these plays, but I definitely saw for the first time how much more of an important role the audience has in these Shakespeare plays and It makes me all the more excited to see the


plays that the Globe Theater has this summer. I'm very happy to be able to see *Antony and Cleopatra*.

TICKET

As You Like It
Friday, April 19, 2024 @ 7:30 PM
Rooke Theatre
Name: bradley TREVISONE
Type: Student/Senior Citizen (\$8.00)

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