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Reaction paper #3

“Godspell”

This was my second time going to the theatre to see a play, and I was so excited to see Godspell. We had just recently taken a field trip down to Fisher Theater to see how the stage layout is constructed from blueprints to the set that will be used for the play. While waiting in the hall I heard, some people were saying that it was an audience interactive play. As this will be my second time watching, I had a high expectation of what is to come. The first time I came here was to watch Orpheus in the Underworld, it was terrific, and I hope Godspell will be too. As I sat down in the hall, I can see most of the audience were also excited for the play. The other thing I had noticed is that the band was set at the right back corner of the stage as opposed to the last play I went to which the orchestra was in a hole in the middle of the stage. After watching the show, I would like to share my reactions on the play as how amazed I was.

The first thing I was amazed at this play was how well it incorporates singing and some of the gospel as well as showing us. The play was able to tell some of the parables in a singing form which amazed me because I had never seen it done before. I also find it interesting because they were able to show us what the parables mean by having some of the cast member act as some characters in the parables. Throughout the whole play, I have noticed that each cast member was able to sing in different pitch when needed and they all amaze me with the vocal harmony. The play also shows me that every single cast member is equally as important as the rest because as they also sing to tell the parables. By comparing the last reaction paper that I wrote about Marry Poppins return, this play is also quite similar as each parable leads to a singing and dancing scene on stage whereas Marry Poppins is little adventures around London in the movie. The best scene to me was the first scene where each cast member slowly emerges from the audience and slowly sing and walk their way up to the stage. They also wanted us to sing at the beginning which to me was new and fun.

The second thing is that I have caught my attention while watching the play is the small changes in the set and lighting in each scene. Throughout the play every small parable there is a little change of the scene. It amazed me as of how little the cast moves the platforms around like it is part of the play to change the scene and then dance in it. Even though it is not obvious to others that just by moving a single ladder to the middle is also changing the scene. It is precisely these little things that caught my attention that there is a change in the set to change the scene. The next small changes are the lightings in the theatre hall. Although not many people notice this but changing the light’s colors or brightness can affect or tell you the emotions the cast or scene is trying to portrait. What I have seen so far is that all of the theatre plays I have been to the actors are continually showing us, the audience their emotions in the scene. In this play, there is a scene where the lights go red, and I have noticed that the casts are singing in a deeper voice becoming more angry or furious at someone.

Finally, I had the best time enjoying all of the choreography and the music that goes along with it. I like how even though there are 17 scenes throughout the play the director and choreographer still manage to make each scene different from one another. The best scene is where they turn off all the lights and dance with some red-light strips. It still amazes me how people can dance in the dark as well as showing body motion with light stirps. However, we still cannot forget about the background music by the band at the back. To me the band did a great job at playing all the songs and background music for the casts to sing and dance. After the play I still wonder how they played their instrument in the dark at the last scene where the whole hall’s lights were turned off.

Overall, I enjoyed “Godspell” a lot. This play met all of my expectations a lot. I often do not go to Fisher theatre to watch these plays much but after “Godspell” and “Orpheus in the Underworld”, I might try to go more often to enjoy some of our plays. Although, this performance does not come close to the movie, Marry Poppins return that I wrote in the last reaction paper, it is still a great performance in the set and the choreography in each scene. In conclusion, I enjoyed the play, and I am looking forward to attending some more in the future.