

Monologue Review - 'Juliet's thoughts on Tybalt' By Laura Mannes

In the monologue "Juliet's Thoughts on Tybalt", written and performed by Laura Mannes, the audience experiences the pain, confusion and love of a romance gone wrong. The emotions are poured out through an authentic stream of consciousness allowing the viewers to understand the innermost ambitions and fears of the well-known, starry eyed lover. Mannes combined literary, technical and performance techniques along with essential monologue elements to create an engaging piece that enthralled both audience and performer.

This monologue is set in a serious context, after the death of Tybalt; this is portrayed from the first line. Delivered in a tone of disbelief the line, "He's really gone. Tybalt is dead." provided a hook opening, which sets the emotional tone for the rest of the performance; however, it did not immediately engage the audience. The monologue followed Juliet's thoughts as she worked through the pain of losing Tybalt to her husband. 'Juliet's Thoughts on Tybalt' is a search for answers as shown by the use of rhetorical questions; Juliet wants to know why, who, and what if? Mannes performance included a release of pent up sentiment portrayed through emotive language. The monologue has a narrative structure that leads viewers through a series of events and questions before finding solutions.

Mannes makes moderate use of tactical variety throughout her performance. A chair was the main prop and caused the audience to relate to her physical situation, however, she did not utilise available space, remaining seated. This monologue has little involvement of senses, other than sight. When describing past experiences, the adjectives were limited to what she saw. While the use of tactical variety and engagement of the senses are lacking, the journey of overcoming obstacles and discovery has been effectively used to authenticate Juliet's emotions and confusion. Mannes' mentioning of Juliet's doubt in rhetorical questions such as, "Will it break us?" showed the audience the obstacles that Juliet is facing and provided insight into her motivations. The obstacles are solved throughout the performance, leading to her ultimate personal discovery in the closing line, "But at least..." revealing that despite all the trouble Romeo was worth it.

"Juliet's thoughts on Tybalt" included excellent use of the elements of dramatic relationships tying together the past and present. Mannes performed a recount of Juliet's past, doing so nostalgically, to enhance this effect on the audience. This is seen preceding the line, "He knew that ever since I was a young child Tybalt had protected me." This past is closely tied to emotional restraint because of the feuding families. Juliet's exasperation was shown through hand gestures and tonality and was also incorporated into Mannes' relationship with the audience, exhibiting restraint when portraying pain. The emotion in this piece comes to a climax in the closing lines where Juliet becomes certain of her convictions. This coupled with the button close, aided by the frustrated exit from the scene - walking off stage - culminated into a strong finish.

Laura Mannes artfully intertwined literary, technical and performance techniques into her monologue titled "Juliet's thoughts on Tybalt". The essential elements of monologues have also been considered and used in a fashion that provides the piece with authenticity and emotion that is experienced by performer and audience alike.

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