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### Eurydice Review

Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* as seen at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre is a uniquely adapted version of the original Greek tragedy *Orpheus* which as the change in title suggests has changed in an important way. The story, which was originally more about Orpheus attempting to find his way back to his lost love Eurydice who has died, becomes more about Eurydice and her journeys in the underworld. The addition of the character of Eurydice's father alters the plays meaning dramatically; it becomes a story about the love between a father and a daughter rather than a husband and a wife.

Eurydice's story is one of compelling nature: it draws you in and allows you the exact right amount of room to wonder at the story, its manner of speech, and the visually intriguing surroundings of the world you see onstage. You are given leave to think about what you are being presented with but you must, at the same time, be careful not to become too fixated on the small details that you might not understand without time to give them some extra thought. If you took the time to scrutinize every last detail you would quickly become lost. Rather than pay extreme attention to every part you must feel the emotion in the lines as given to you by the actors and leave the rest to ponder later.

The language of the play was one of the most compelling parts of the performance. Yet, in contrast to the writing the moments of silence were also extremely powerful. In those times the play rested entirely upon the actors. Even the short moments— such as

when Eurydice is desperate to understand something of the book she has been sent but has lost the ability to read and tries everything she can including standing on it in an attempt to somehow absorb the information— were made to seem significant and meaningful. The emotion of the situation comes across through the actors in a way that allows you to feel their confusion and desperation.

I was especially impressed with the set. It was at once real and alien. Each part was created to look real but had a twist to it that made it noticeably off-putting, for example the tower that held the elevator built tilted to the left or the real looking elevator pouring rain onto Eurydice or the underworld resembling an underground sewer system with pipes at odd angles scattered about.

Clear lines are drawn between the characters centered in the underworld and those who are not. Those who are a part of the underworld— the stones, the lord of the underworld...the strange and interesting man? — are set apart from the characters of Eurydice, Eurydice's father, and Orpheus: the characters who insist on holding onto something besides death. The way each of these characters are represented is something to think about in its self.

For anyone who wants to see a thought provoking, entertaining, and interesting performance I would recommend this show. I was left with much to think about and ponder after the performance and thoroughly enjoyed myself also. I would have to say my favorite thing about it was that everyone could take something unique and different for the performance. It was open to interpretation in the way that depending on yourself and the experiences you have certain parts might mean more, less or something different to you that it does to your neighbor, a fact which allows you to discuss the play afterwards and be interested by the varying opinions you will encounter.