

Eurydice - The Tale of Two True Loves

It is one of the greatest unanswered questions of our time: What is true love? Does true love involve that one “special someone” or can it involve a family member? What exactly makes true love, true love? Eurydice, a memorable play by Sarah Ruhl, gives some powerful insight into this unanswered question. On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, I was able to see this play performed in the Powerhouse Theater at the Milwaukee Rep and, in return, the question of what exactly is true love was answered for me.

This heartwarming tale begins with two deeply in love and extremely playful individuals, Eurydice (Lanise Antoine Shelley) and Orpheus (David Duffield). During their wedding reception, Eurydice leaves to get a drink of water and meets a rather Nasty Interesting Man (Wayne T. Carr). He tells her of a letter he received from her father that is waiting at his home. Eurydice, who misses her deceased father, is intrigued and decides to throw common sense out the window and follow this man to his penthouse apartment. Once at the apartment, Eurydice realizes her mistakes, steals the letter from the Nasty Interesting Man, and tries to escape. As she escapes, however, she dies and is sent to the underworld.

Once in the underworld, Eurydice is reunited with her beloved father (William Dick). She faces many difficult choices and challenges, the biggest being which true love she should follow and in which direction her heart is leading her.

From the moment that I entered the theater, I was instantly taken into an “Alice-In-Wonderland” looking world, as the set contained twisted and slanted pipes, a crooked, actual working elevator, marble floors, and a rather large beach ball in the back corner. The stage was set up in such a manner that I felt as if I were a part of the play! The stage was placed almost directly in the audience, which gave the entire audience the feel of being participants in the play.

The actors, however, were what made Eurydice the excellent play that it was. Whether it was the father, who had scenes that could rip your heart out and make you tear up, or the Lord of the Underworld, who could make your sides split from laughter, the actors were amazing and real. Every one of the actors made the audience believe that they were the actual character they were portraying, which is a very difficult task for the entire cast to do.

This was a beautiful and well portrayed play that everyone of any age would enjoy, although some of the jokes would only be comprehended by an older audience. If you enjoy surprising twists, unexpected turns, and humorous and heart wrenching events, Eurydice is definitely a play that you would love and get a lot of meaning from.

Eurydice also stars Laurie Birmingham, Eric Hissom, and Jose Luis Sanchez as three “stones” in the Underworld.