

Tired of Giving In : The Rosa Parks Story

On November 7, 2024 the Première Euro Anglais Class attended a performance of the play *Tired of Giving : the Rosa Parks Story* at the Fabrik Théâtre by the Théâtre en Anglais company.

The plot

The play was about Rosa Parks' life and her fight against segregation. More specifically, the plot revolved around Montgomery's bus boycott after she refused to give up her seat to a white man. At the beginning of the play, Rosa introduces herself and shortly after, we are taken back in time through a flashback of her teenage years. Then we watched her grow up and get married. The play alternates between dialogues and Rosa's monologues which create an intimacy between the character and the audience. There are many focuses on her close family too, such as her husband nicknamed "Parks". All the events in the narrative are inspired by real facts.



Staging, set design and lighting

First, the set design was original and minimalist. In fact, the stage layout was special. We could see that the producer used chairs to construct much of the set. For example, the bus was made with four chairs arranged in a white square made with tape. Then, some chairs and a table were also used during the meetings at the NAACP and to represent the Park family home. There was also a spotlight to project videos or pictures of the bus, meeting scenes and other symbolic elements. The lighting effects were also very useful to create the scene atmosphere. The spotlight was different according to the scenes, when it was a sad scene, the colours were dull and when it was a hopeful scene the colours were bright.

Acting

The comedians were great and did a good job to make the play a lot more alive. They used a very good tone, they also had a strong projection so everyone could hear them clearly. The play was very dynamic thanks to their body language which was very expressive, the emotions were felt easily, and their pace never left room for boredom. They managed to make the play smooth enough, so every situation and characters could be recognized easily. The comedians were dynamic, especially the one who played Mr. Parks as he did acrobatics and a lot of energetic figures. The other comedians were all great and each one brought their talent to the table. We could feel a real alchemy between every comedian.

Costumes

During the play, the comedians' attire was really representative of the 1940s traditional clothing. People were dressed elegantly, men wore suits with classy shoes, whereas women wore midi dresses and heels. There were a lot of outfits, and thanks to the diversity of their wardrobe, the actors had the chance to represent many characters including men and women. The attire's color scheme was colorful during important events and more neutral during their daily life. The accessories had an authenticity, they fit really well with the outfits and helped to represent reality.



Sound effects and music

All throughout the play, background noises and music were used to describe the action and enhance the immersion and realism of the play. For example, thanks to those effects, scenes like the ones in the bar looked full of life even though the actors were only four, it felt like there were a lot more. Atmospheric sounds effectively filled the roles of clients and bystanders, while songs set the tone for different scenes.

For the musical parts, actors sang live and clearly as they used old high-quality microphones, but with equalizers in order to reduce treble, for two out of the three songs. The absence of echo, the slight reverb and the well-handled dynamic range ended up making the overall sonic experience very pleasant. As for the actors, they spoke with clarity and with voices that could be heard even from the seats farthest from the stage, which was great, especially for a non-native English speaking audience.

written by La classe de première euro anglais