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Trójmiasto



Kobietom nie chodzi tylko o seks

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Graham Farrow's "Rattlesnakes" performed by Maybe Theatre Company is a surprising, witty and multidimensional psychological drama. One of the best performances among Tricity alternative theatres within the last few years.

Clearly, Farrow – a contemporary British playwright – knew what he was doing when he suggested the Gdańsk group Maybe Theatre Company put on his play. Paweł Drożdż, making his debut as a director, focused mainly on the text of the drama piece and let it resound in its full. He distilled emotions, implied subtext and distinctive features of the characters, combining tragic and comic notes in almost perfect harmony. The function of other means of stage expression – the set, costumes and props – has been limited to the illustrious minimum. "Rattlesnakes" focuses on the psychological game of the characters. What a calculated game it is, one finds out at the very end.

The plot of the play seems very simple. The action takes place during one evening at a somewhat shabby hotel room. On the right – a door, on the left – a spacious wardrobe. In the centre, against the wall, a small bed, a bedside table and a fridge with alcohol supply. Only a flicking red light we can see in a window with a carelessly hung net curtain introduces an atmosphere of anticipating something more, something from under the surface of this symbolically outlined reality. An elegantly dressed man (Robert McQueen, brilliantly played by Paweł Kaczmarek) comes onto the stage, opens the fridge, takes out a little bottle of vodka and takes a swig. It is the only "calm", as if slow-motion scene in Maybe Theatre Company's performance. It is interrupted by three masked men barging into the room, who tie the terrified guest to a chair. From this point onwards the play thickens with every moment. The following scenes complicate the action at the same time consistently leading to a solution and a very surprising ending. The three men are Richie Hanson (Konrad Daniel), Jamie Jarrett (Tomasz Łapiński) and Jed Ellis (Paweł Drożdż), who would like to put an end to their wives' dishonourable practice. Independently of each other they go out with a certain man and pay him quite a lot of money for – as their husbands believe – sex only. However, the truth turns out to be much more painful. The tied up rogue, after a series of tortures (a bit funnily played), reveals at last the true motives of the women. Unexpectedly, the victim becomes the torturer, the man actually becomes a psychotherapist, a sex therapist, a confessor of his former oppressors.

Every of the stage characters is a full-blooded one. The actors, amateurs after all, build psychologically complex characters on the stage. It is long time since in Maybe's performances the text has been given so clearly – which in case of a performance done entirely in English made it possible to focus on something more than just understanding the text. It is impossible not to mention also the only brilliant female role in this performance. In the case of one of the married couples a confrontation takes place in which Richie's wife, Shelly Hanson (Sandra Szwarc), takes part.

"Rattlesnakes" as performed by Maybe Theatre Company is not only one of the best latest performances of the group but also one of the best among the Tricity alternative groups within the last few years.

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