ANA - Costume Design by Megan Baker

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ANA

ANA - a world premiere and co-production with Montreal based Imago Theatre and Scotland based Stellar Quines
Creative Team

Writers: Clare Duffy & Pierre Yves Lemieux
Director: Serge Denoncourt
Costume Designer: Megan Baker
Set Designer: Louise Campeau
Video Designer: Gabriel Coutu-Dumont/Geodezik
Lighting Designer: Martin Labrecque
Sound Designer/Composer: Philip Pinsky
COSTUME DESIGNER FOR A NEW BILINGUAL PLAY CO WRITTEN OVER 6 YEARS BY A BRITISH AND CANADIAN WRITER. THE PLAY WAS A CO PRODUCTION BETWEEN STELLAR QUINES THEATRE COMPANY (SCOTLAND) AND IMAGO THEATRE COMPANY (CANADA). THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM WERE A MIX OF SCOTTISH AND CANADIAN ACTORS, DIRECTORS, DESIGNERS AND PRODUCERS.

Original: It was hugely challenging with regards to its collaborative nature across countries, disciplines and different cultural practices. The costumes were integral to the story telling which spanned many cultures and a 600 year time period.
Sketches for ANA. The play spanned 600 years with the character of ANA being played by six different actors travelling through different historical time frames and cultures and spoken in two languages. The one male character also played 12 different characters also in a range of historical periods and cultures. It was therefore important for the costumes to be pivotal in the story telling helping the audience to identify who the character was at what point in time. I achieved this by designing all of the ANA costumes in red and ensuring that the silhouette clearly defined the historical time and cultural place and the male and all other characters were in neutral colours. There were also many quick costume changes to factor in so many costumes were under dressed or added to create a certain magic without disrupting the story telling. Due to the director, half of the creative team being based in Canada and the two writers in different countries writing in different languages changing the script right up to the opening night communication and collaboration was essential. Communication was also challenging but rewarding with the French speaking production team, costume supervisor (an ex eca costume graduate) and makers who were all based in Montreal where practices were very different from our in Britain.
‘This show has a wild and fabulous female poetry about it, that makes it a fine production for the week of International Women’s Day; not least in the visual power of a design – by Megan Baker, Louise Campeau and Martin Labrecque – that dresses each of the actors in fierce swathes of scarlet, and isolates them in great splashes of light; and in six terrific and terrifying performances from the women playing Ana, led by the mighty Catherine Begin, from Quebec.’

Joyce Mc Millan, The Scotsman
Laura Frietag of Rover Arts writes:
With a strong ensemble cast and remarkable mise-en-scène, ANA offers an imaginative and complex vision of womanhood.
Production Tour Dates
22 November – 10 December, Espace GO Theatre, Montreal
1 – 10 March, Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh
14 March, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh
16 – 17 March, Gardyne Theatre, Dundee College
19 – 20 March, One Touch Theatre, Eden Court, Inverness
22 – 24 March, Tron Theatre, Glasgow
At the fork in the road, ANA takes both paths.
Born before history – before even the gods – in the house of stars, ANA is a strange and wondrous being. She is a delight and a terror. An abomination, a deity, a freak and the star of our carnival show.
ANA is not bound by the same laws that govern the lives of us mere mortals. When this creature is caught in the mouth of inescapable decision, instead of choosing either side of kismet’s coin she deceives fate by splitting into a new self, multiplying at every crossroad, escaping her own terror to survive, to be free. But the selves she leaves behind still exist and go on living to this day. Now, completely overcome and bewildered by her many incarnations, ANA must face her selves to reconcile her countless existences.
Directed by internationally renowned Serge Denoncourt, ANA explores one woman’s story through time and across the globe – a woman who is cursed, who splits at every crossroads, multiplying to escape her own terror to be free. Now overcome by her many incarnations, ANA must face her selves to reconcile her countless existences.
For in depth information on ANA, visit the show’s website: www.stellarquines.com/ana
ANA was a ground-breaking international co-production between Stellar Quines and Montreal based Imago Theatre. Written by Scottish writer Clare Duffy and Pierre Yves Lemieux from Québec, ANA blends the rhythms of Scots-English with Canadian-French, dissolving the barriers between language to explore a space that words alone cannot describe.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/2012/mar/11/ana-review

Home > ANA’s Blog > Press


http://www.list.co.uk/article/40978-ana/

Reviews

myth-making brilliance...at this best, this show has a wild and fabulous female poetry about it. (The Scotsman )

well executed with an impressive mise-en-scene and very strong performances from a Quebecan/Scottish cast. (Buzz Extra)

“A beguiling magical-realist epic” – The Herald

“The show itself sits somewhere between complete genius and total madness” – TV Bomb