

LEARNING MORE ABOUT ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES THANKS TO THEATRE

ON MY WAY

The Pickles Theatre Company – Team Piccolo

Shelley Calvin

Katie Reid

Matthew “Matt” Ralphs



Solomon Ayre Lynch

Arnaud Cramoisan
Director / Communication Manager

Last Tuesday, I saw « On my Way » by the Pickles Theatre Company. The four actors (Shelley Calvin, Katie Reid, Solomon Ayre Lynch and Matthew Ralphs) came from Ireland and they were on tour around France. They play the story of Billie, a girl who did the wild Atlantic Way to impress Brad, a boy she has a crush on.

What I like in this play is that it's very minimalist, with only few props and only 4 actors. They were very talented and with only few elements they created a particularly close relationship with the audience. I found very interesting the way they created atmospheres with their bodies, for example the rain by clapping their hands. Their body language was an unexpected way to create links with the public and during the “rain” I felt it was magical. It was very easy to understand what they said so everybody was captivated by the show. It would have been more boring if we hadn't understood everything. There were just few moments which were a little bit embarrassing when the actors hugged some people in the audience but finally it was what part of the communication we had together. There weren't a lot of props and just a white screen in the background of the stage but I imagined very well the breathtaking landscapes of the wild Atlantic way and it made me want to go to Ireland. There were a lot of humorous moments which made me enjoy watching the play. At the end of the play they came to speak with us and we asked them a lot of questions. At the beginning it was interesting but I think that this part would have been better if she had been shorter. They seemed to be very happy and it made me smile to see people so much into their passion.

To conclude I really recommend this play. You will have fun but at the same time you will improve your English, learn more about the Wild Atlantic Way and the job of actor.

Alice

On the way to success

On the 9th of January 2018 the Pickles Piccolo theatre company performed the play *On my Way*, written and staged by Arnaud Cramoisan, for the students of Rabelais. As a theatre fan myself, I had to see this comedy. The events took place in Ireland and the plot was quite simple: Billie, a teenage girl, decides to walk the Atlantic way, a three-month-journey on foot across the landscapes of the western coast of Ireland, to impress her crush, Brad. Although it lacked complexity, this play made up for it with hilarity: I dare you to watch it without laughing out loud. The actors' range of facial expressions would even make Jim Carrey jealous and the writing was exquisite. Indeed, there were a lot of satires of movie tropes and theatre nowadays with a musical training montage and some characters keeping one physical attribute at all times so you could recognize them, such as the dad and his oven mitts. It was also refreshing to see that the actors didn't take themselves too seriously, an attitude which led to quite some laughs when, for example, the talented Ms. Reid played a tree, another tree and a mischievous sheep! The staging was also amazing: the set was extremely minimalistic and yet thanks to impressive body language and brilliant ideas such as tapping fingers on the palms of their hands to create rain sound effects, the actors were able to paint vivid landscapes. Furthermore, this play is a perfect example of why theatre hasn't died, even with the rise of movies: the actors interacted a lot with the audience, sometimes even hugging them and they constantly broke the fourth wall, especially with the running gag of Solomon Ayre Lynch playing Patricia, the main character's mum, and taking it too seriously. However, I did regret one thing: I wish they had spent more time exploring Irish culture as I believe it would have made for a good learning experience. But all in all, it was a lively play with a cast of talented actors like Matthew Ralphs or Katie Reid that I recommend you go see.

Written by Thomas Delmas

I really enjoyed to see "On my way". At the beginning, I was surprised about how they used their bodies to create the rain and it was a good idea to make the spectators produce the rain effect with the actors. I think using body language is original and because of this interpretation I learned what body language is.

It was also an unexpected element to see the actors coming into the audience, asking us questions, hugging us. It's as if we were interpreting a role with the real actors. I enjoyed their idea to make pupils interpret characters in the play. So I think the relationship with the audience was very important in this play and it made it more interesting and original.

The actors interpreted their roles very well. I liked the way Solomon and Matthew played two of their roles. Especially when Solomon pretended to be a woman (Billie's mom) because it did not make the play too serious. To play two roles proved that it's not necessary to have one actor for each role. My favorite character is Norah because she is always there for Billie and she encourages her to do the wild Atlantic way and to not to care about what people say. It's a very a beautiful relationship.

Their costumes and the set were simple and there weren't a lot of objects to decorate the stage. There was only a black sheet in the background but the costumes of Solomon when he played Patricia were funny because it was very elegant and it's not how women are dressed in normal life. Moreover it's unusual to see a man dressed like a woman. But the original thing in this play was to write for example "tree" on a sign carried by an actor pretending to be a tree.

The story of Billie is very inspiring because it tells us not to care and not to listen to what people say. The play says that if you want to realize something, you can do it, you only need to believe in yourself and in your capacities. So I think it's not only a funny play, and what I remember first about this play is this lesson.

This play surprised me in the good way. I enjoyed the relationship the actors had with the audience and the unexpected costumes and body language. "On my way" also taught to me more about Ireland. I didn't expect a funny play, but the comic elements didn't make the play bad so I wouldn't have made other choices.



Two weeks ago, on Tuesday 9th January, a theatre company: The Pickles came to Rabelais to act out a play: "On my way" that we had studied in class before. I decided to write an article on this play because the actors performed and interpreted the play well.

Indeed, the plot isn't exceptional, Billie is a bit funny because she's always absent-minded but the humorous aspect stops there. Yet, the Pickles Company managed to make the play funnier not only thanks to their talents but also thanks to their interaction with the audience and with their props. However, their interactions were sometimes embarrassing especially when Billie, played by Shelley, hugged people. When I speak about their talents, I think of Matthew, when he played Frank. Their props were good such as the different outfits of Patricia played by Solomon who humorously showed how challenging it was for him to embody the female character. So he changed his appearance several times with a new outfit every time. Furthermore, the actors became the set because they had a few props and used signs to make it clear. For example, when Seamus came back home with Billie, Katie and Solomon became trees and made it obvious thanks to signs. I think it was my favorite moment in the play.

Besides, these actors were also musicians: they didn't sing very well but they created excellent sound effects: they imitated the sound of the rain by clapping delicately on their hands. But, I think it would have been almost better if they had jumped on the floor to create the sound of thunder. I also liked the play because I understood what they said. Their accent was very simple to understand and I think to learn the vocabulary before the play helped me.

To conclude, I think the play was very well performed thanks to the set and the props which were rather plain because it forced the actors to be very present on stage. So they were always on stage and in the audience.

Emmanuel CHAPUIS

During our year's project, we saw play named "On my Way". It's a play performed by four young people who played different characters: There were Shelley Calvin and Katie Reid who are two Irish women and Solomon Ayre Lynch and Matthew "Matt" Ralphs, two Englishmen. They are members of The Pickles Theatre Company.

It's a story of a girl's hiking around Ireland but also about her relationship with other characters.

1. The set

It was very sober but perfect for the actors: they were able to change costumes and get the props they needed to act. The costumes were funny but it was a good choice to understand which character they played and who the character was. Besides, they used unexpected elements like music which created a different atmosphere (although I think it was an unnecessary thing); or like the signs they took to create elements they didn't have.

2. The actors

The actors were incredible because they used their bodies to express themselves. They were expressive with their voices too because they spoke loud and clearly; it was very understandable. They could also be different characters by using different costumes. They were in their roles in the story, so it was very interesting and not boring at all. Moreover, they created a special relationship with the public because they asked questions, they asked a group of students to act some scenes with them.

3. My opinion

To conclude I think I really liked this play because, well first I understood it but that is not the only reason: I loved it because of the actors, the story, the good moment I spent watching it... But I think if we had been in a bigger theatre with a better stage, the show would have been very different and I think it would have been better even if was amazing.

Also I learned more about an actor's job because at the end, they spoke about themselves and how they worked (warm-up, exercises...).

To finish, I didn't expect this play to be performed as it was but it was as they wanted it to be and it was good, funny and interesting.

Lanaspèze Arthur

In my opinion, this play was very interesting. The actors and the play were funny and interesting.

First, the play was simple so everybody could understand it. There were few actors so it wasn't difficult to know who was who. Moreover, the fact that the play didn't have too many props or sets which are very expensive made it more interesting.

The play was funny because the actors had to disguise themselves to interpret their characters. There were many unexpected interactions with the audience so we were like a part of the play.

Secondly, the actors looked really friendly so it was nice to see them play and make fun of themselves. Their body language was simple and efficient. Moreover, they made sound effects like the rain and some music to show Billie's trip and that was unexpected and courageous because they are actors, not singers. The fact that some students of our school participated too was an interesting idea and really fun for the audience.

Thirdly, I think that this play wasn't complicated even if there were many English expressions. The actors are good and they love their activity, and we can see that thanks to this play.

Additionally, I think that it's very courageous to play in front of an audience of teenagers because you don't know if there are going to laugh or not. For example, I was sitting next to two people during this play, one of them was laughing so loud that she made me laugh and the other one didn't move or laugh during the play because, I think, she was embarrassed.

Finally, the staging was really interesting and it corresponded to the idea that I had of the play: the story of a teenage girl who didn't know who she was because of a guy.

Chloé Vandenberghe

Careful this article contains a lot of spoilers

Last Tuesday, we went to the school's theatre to see a play called *On My Way*. This play was staged by the Pickles Theatre Company. It tells us the story of Billie, played by Shelley Calvin, her friend and family. We saw how Billie impressed Brad, Norah and her parents and we witnessed her spiritual development.

When I first saw the stage, I was surprised, because it was almost empty. There were just the actors and a black curtain. I found out later that the few costumes were behind this curtain. I thought that there would be a lot more actors but they were only four. Another thing that surprised me was when some students went on stage to perform little roles like Brad's friends. The last surprising aspect was the fact that the actors broke the fourth wall and exchanged with the audience, which was sometimes awkward like when they hugged some of the students.

All the sound effects were literally handmade like the sound of the rain made with a lot of weird clapping. I liked the choir when Billie finishes her trip which was unexpected even if it was maybe a little too much. There were a lot of costumes, one for each character. Even when they didn't have a proper costume, it was funny, like when they interpreted trees and a sheep. I understood almost all the play. It was easier than I expected because they didn't talk very fast but clearly and loud.

Moreover, the actors were all very good. I think it was difficult for them to interpret many characters. Only Shelley Calvin and Katie Reid had only one character. It doesn't mean that it was less hard because their characters were always on stage and had to deal with a lot of different emotions, especially Billie. Even if the interpretation of Patricia surprised me and was very funny, I didn't like the other character of Solomon Ayre Lynch. He also performed Brad, which I didn't enjoy as much as Patricia. I think he didn't get the character well or it's me who had another expectation of him. I thought Brad was the kind person who would help Billie through her adventure, but it turned out he was a "jerk".

After the show, we had the opportunity to ask questions to the actors so we learned more about the actor's job. For example I learned that they had to rehearse a lot before they could practice a play. In fact, they have known this play for a very long time now. I learned more about this job when we did the workshop with Dario Costa a week later because we really had to perform characters so I really knew what it was like being an actor. For me the best part of the job is when you warm-up because we can relax, play a lot of different characters, improvise...

To conclude, I enjoyed most of the play except the Brad thing. I thought it would have a better ending. I mean it was a nice ending but it would have been even nicer if Billie had ended up with Brad.

Sebastian LE BIHAN

I have chosen to talk about the play « *On My Way* » written and staged by Arnaud Cramoisan, and performed by Shelley Calvin, Katie Reid, Solomon Ayre Lynch and Matthew Ralphs. This play was really funny, first because of the way the actors interpreted their characters and their body language, it was really interesting to see that they imitated the sound of the rain just by clapping in their hand, if I had closed my eyes, I would have heard the real rain sound. The costumes the actors wore were simple and a little bit weird but they were perfect considering the way they interpreted their characters, they exaggerated their characters with some expressions on their faces or in the way they were walking or talking.

In this play I enjoyed the relationship the actors had with the audience, they talked with us. I and five other students even participated to three scenes. In the first scene all the six students (including me) were on the stage, two were talking with Brad (performed by Solomon Ayre

Lynch) when I and the three other performed a crowd behind Brad. In the second scene (performed by Shelley Calvin) I was on the stage with Billie and I performed a postman. And in the third scene three students were playing the radio with Norah (performed by Katie Reid) and Seamus (performed by Matthew Ralphs) was listening to the radio. It was really funny and maybe a little bit stressful for us to be able to perform on stage with real actors.

Therefore, I enjoyed this play; I think the actors were really funny and are really good performers. The play didn't correspond to the idea I had of the story but I think that all the choices Arnaud Cramoisian made were good and made the show a really good moment.

Tranier Rosalie 2nd 8

Today I'm going to speak about the play « On my Way » that we saw in the theatre of the school. The story was performed by the Pickles Theatre company, the play was written and staged by Arnaud Cramoisian. It was performed by four different actors: Shelley Calvin who played Billie, Katie Reid who played Norah (Billie's best friend ever); Solomon Ayre Lynch who embodied Brad and Patricia, and finally Matthew Ralphs who played Ted, Frank and Seamus. As I said, it was very impressive because the two actors Solomon Ayre Lynch and Matthew Ralphs were interpreting many different characters at the same time; so they changed roles and costumes many times during the play.

Now that I have been talking about the roles in the play, let's talk about the play:

First, there were unexpected elements that happened during the performance of the play, for example being hugged by the actors: it was surprising and a little awkward. Another fact which surprised me was the constant interaction of the actors with the audience: the public reacted a lot of times and the actors and actresses often asked us to clap our hands. But there were also funny and humorous moments, when the audience was excited and joyful by the actor's play when for example everybody was singing on the stage, or when Billie, as usual, was putting her foot in her mouth... The relation with the audience was close and relaxed, and they were making us laugh. So the audience was happy.

The actors and actresses were overplaying to make the scenes more lively. They were acting out different emotions, performing the characters very well, and were pretending that they were sad, angry, happy: they were doing as if...It's very difficult but I think they did that very well. Additionally, the actors were using a lot of body language and creating sound effects like landscape sounds (the rain for example; they were making this noise with their hands, or even just with a sign telling us that they were pretending to be trees). Furthermore; the music was great and played at the right moment, like when she was walking and motivated to finish the Wild Atlantic Way.

The set was very simple and plain; they was only a brown wall, and just a few props like a backpack, a map... It was a minimalist staging, and the actors didn't have that many things and stuff on the set when they were playing the play.

What I learnt about an actor's job thanks to this play is that they go on tour all around a country or even a continent to perform and that you have to be focused and to do some rehearsals at the beginning.

I understood the play very well because the actors were exaggerating their sentences and the lines were clearly pronounced. So even if we are French students and they are foreign from other English-Speaking countries, we were able to understand them very well and recognize their accents; everything was done to help us understand all the play; so it was a pleasure to attend this English play.

Inès Auguy

THE DRAMA WORKSHOP



On Thursday January the 18th, we met Dario Costa, an Australian actor who came to teach us how to act a play and to tell us about his country. We worked on different subjects connected to Australia like the aboriginal culture, the important characters who lived in Australia especially during the 18th and 19th centuries like Ned Kelly and Mary Bryant.

First, we had to warm up. We did some funny exercises:

- We stretched our bodies with a few exercises like raising our hands as high as we could or making circles with our heads.
- We had to walk and clap, jump or stop at Dario's signal. It became very difficult when we had to do the contrary of what was said.
- We had to interpret different moods like sadness or happiness and we had to move in different ways as if we were heavy, old or rich. After a few exercises we had to meet with someone who played another mood. These exercises made me realize how difficult it is to look sad when you are happy for example. It is also difficult not to laugh when you are playing with someone and I don't understand how the actors can stay serious when they play in a comic film.

After the warming up, we started to study the texts we had seen before in class. We worked on a text about an aboriginal tribe called the Yolgnu people. This community, despite many years of exploitation by European settlers, is one of the most intact and the most important tribe in Australia because they managed to preserve their culture thanks to art and ceremonies. A narrator had to read the text while some actors acted out what was said. At the beginning and at the end of the story, Dario played an instrument called the Didgeridoo which makes a very strange sound.

After these little sketches, we worked on the text of Ned Kelly and Mary Bryant. These two characters lived in Australia when it was still a place for convicts. Ned Kelly was an outlaw and Mary Bryant was a convict sent to Australia for stealing a coat. We were divided into groups and after rehearsing, we had to play our texts on the stage. I liked this part because we could improvise the scene and interpret the characters we had studied in class.

I found this workshop very interesting and funny but I would have preferred to have more improvisations because this way we would have been able to use our imagination more to interpret the characters in the way we liked. I think that working with an actor coming from Australia was more interesting than if he had come from England. Indeed, I learnt a lot of things about Australia, its population, his culture and its history. I found that the work on the indigenous people, especially the Yolngu was very interesting.

Mathilde Belin

Article about the drama workshop with Dario Costa

This workshop took place on January the 18th in the theater of the school. The person who was in charge of the workshop was Dario Costa, an Australian actor. First we had to warm-up. It was easy and a bit funny because we had to walk as if we were heavy, old or tired so we could see how our classmates acted out those kinds of adjectives. But the exercise that surprised me was the coordination one. I didn't think that an actor had to do those exercises before acting.

However, I think that the activity I liked most was when we had to stage a story (the story of Ned Kelly or Mary Bryant) because it was very different from when we read the text: we had to embody the character, to try to imagine how the character was thinking, what his emotions were etc... We also tried to place the actors in the right position in order to make the story lively.

Also, the exercise that was a real challenge for me was when we had to play the Yolngu story, "The emu and the jabiru". While some students were performing (including me), the others were telling the story. And because we didn't have the text, we had to repeat the text that was read by our classmates (not always as easy as I would have liked it to be...). But it was funny (because I was ridiculous) and I enjoyed doing it.

I liked this workshop, it corresponded to the general idea I had of it even if there were some surprising elements. Unluckily, in the middle, before the pause, it became a bit boring. Thanks to Mr. Costa, I learnt more about the life of an actor and even if that's not what I want to do in the future, I found it interesting. I also learnt about Australian culture, the Australian identity with Ned Kelly, the Aboriginal culture with the Yolngu, and so much more...

Maxime BESSEAU

My opinion about the drama workshop

Last Thursday, the European class and I did a drama workshop with a man from Australia called Dario Costa. It took place in the morning at the theatre of my high school.

First of all, Dario introduced himself and explained to us what we were going to do and then we went on the stage.

Thus, everybody started the warm-up, following Dario's instructions. We shook and moved our heads, our arms etc...

Then Dario asked us to try to act out some emotions like to be happy, sad or excited...

this part of the workshop was very funny! In fact, everybody was playing the game!

However, it was quite a difficult exercise (even if it was quite basic) because we had to play a role in front of everybody, so the shy people had difficulties...

After that, we just sat on the floor, in a circle and listened to Dario. He showed us a very special instrument he had brought from Australia. This instrument was very singular and we all saw it when he played it!

Next, we did improvisations about Australian stories. While some students were reading the story, others were improvising to make the story more lively. I like improvisations but these were very difficult so I didn't volunteer to do it. It was one of the most challenging exercises! Unfortunately, this moment was quite boring: I didn't play and only few students were performing...

After that, Dario asked us to form groups and to stage a short part of a play. This was also a challenging exercise because the story was quite complicated and we didn't understand all the text we were saying. However, it was surprising to see the different groups, they did good stagings!

The workshop lasted 3 hours so we only had few minutes to ask some questions to Dario about where he came from and his career... It was very interesting to listen to his answers and to know a little bit more about his life!

To conclude, this workshop was very funny and interesting. I really enjoy theatre so I was very happy to rediscover it! Even if I would have preferred to improvise more I had fun and Dario was very kind! So, I recommend this workshop!

Mona Fraser



On Thursday, January 18th, we participated to a drama workshop with the Australian actor, Dario Costa. It was a very interesting experience! We were able to learn more about drama. At first, we began by a drama warming-up. It was very strange! We did many little games where we pretended we were heavy, old, young or rich. After that, we had to stage the text studied in class. The aboriginal story was funny and it was very interesting to interpret its characters. For that, we had to get into the character in order to embody them perfectly. First,

we did not concentrate, however, after playing and acting out the emotions of the characters, we enjoyed this activity.

I think the funniest exercise was the scene where we played the characters of the aboriginal story, because we had to do the same actions as the characters and embody them. The most challenging exercise was the warming-up because we had to improvise all our actions. It was also the most surprising exercise, because I didn't know that actors did that during their rehearsals. I liked so much the moment when Dario Costa used the didgeridoo, an ancestral instrument of the aboriginal culture, because it was the first time that I had seen this instrument in real life. I also appreciated when he confessed to us that he had been shy during this childhood. That proves we can always realize our dreams if we believe in ourselves.

To conclude, I think this workshop was very interesting for me. I discovered the job of actor and the history of Australia. Now, I know more things about the aboriginal culture, I know Ned Kelly, the most famous outlaw in Australia, the Robin Hood of Australia, and I know Mary Bryant the most determined person in the world. Nonetheless, I think that if the workshops had been cut into two parts we would have concentrated more. I also think that if we had improvised more during this warming-up, this workshop would have been funnier.

Théotime



My personal article about the workshop we did with Dario COSTA

Thursday, January 25, 2018

On the 18th of January 2018, we did a theater workshop with a professional actor named Dario COSTA. We did it because we were working about Australia and this actor comes from Australia, and we were also working on theater so this workshop was a wonderful idea for me. We started with the warming-up. It was the same warming-up as real actors do and it surprised me because I thought it would be very serious but it was very cool and funny. I especially liked the exercise when we had to pretend that we were sad or happy or angry, pretend you are a baby or an old man... We did the same thing with different sports which are popular in Australia like Rugby, Surfing or Cricket. To conclude, the warming-up in theater isn't the same as in sport because I think we just have to relax to play the story well.

After the warming-up, we did an improvisation exercise, and for me it was both the most challenging exercise and the funniest. It was the most challenging because we had to get into the character, to embody him. For example, I had to play a police officer who was scared in front of Ned Kelly. It was very difficult because I think my English isn't good enough to play a scene and for me, a police officer isn't scared in front of an outlaw. But I did it and it was very funny to play it, and I think it was also funny to watch.

Later, we read a text and some of my classmates played the different characters of the story. I think that it was a little boring and it would have been better if we hadn't read the text twice! But it was funnier than in class because we could see what was happening in the story, whereas in class we just read the text and we were not in the story. For me it was the easiest exercise because I just had to read a part of the scene.

The last exercise surprised me. We had to stage a text about Mary Bryant. It surprised me because I didn't think actors had to know how to make a text lively, I thought the director just gave them a role and they played it. But I think if we had had more time, our performance would have been better. Thanks to this workshop, I've learnt a lot of things about an actor's job, like the thing I've just said, but also that being actor isn't just about playing in movies, but also playing in theater, and it is not easier! Dario Costa said it! Finally I've learnt that being an actor is hard work and it's not just playing a role, you have to work on your improvisation, your body language, your voice... But I think it's a dream job because you do what you like and you travel in different countries.

To conclude, I really liked the workshop. It corresponded to what I expected in general and I discovered my hidden talent for acting. 😊

Jules Hébert

On the 18th of January, our whole class had an almost three-hour theater workshop. Because I've only been back at Rabelais high school for a few weeks, it took me by surprise. I didn't know how or why it happened but I was fine with it. After hearing about the event several times I finally figured we were having an Australian actor to teach us about acting on the subject of Australia. So here I was, reading about some aboriginal people and two other famous Australian figures. A few days later I was standing on the stage, telling the story of Mary Bryant, and that's what I'm writing about today.

The Australian actor leading our actions that Thursday was called Dario. Dario prepared some warming-up exercises so we could prepare facial expressions. The purpose of

it was also, I guess, to make us loosen up and be more comfortable. Therefore, by a simple one-word order he was able to make us jump around, shout, clap, even dance if he liked to. We would have obeyed any order. Some laughed as loud as they could and others were close to crying, crawling on the floor. But no worries! It was all about sharing an emotion, giving the spectator the feeling of reality, truth. At that moment I didn't feel relaxed. I wasn't capable of walking around and freely play out. Maybe I'm not confident enough, I cared too much. But playing is all about not caring. When you play you must feel like nothing matters. It didn't work for me. Was I self-conscious? If I had known the people around me I wouldn't have been that shy. Consequently, I did not enjoy the warm-up.

However, I liked the workshop. I was only waiting for the real moment, the playing part. Performing is what I do and adore. I chose to play the Mary Bryant story. I have always loved speaking English and theater as well. For that reason, doing both for the first time was amazing – although it was kind of short. In my group, we were eight. I staged the whole scene. I knew almost everyone – which was helpful. In order to not only read a text – and not be boring – we stood in a semi-circle and read our parts while others were acting bits and pieces behind the reader. I hope it didn't feel like I was commanding the actions too much even though I'm glad I put the scenes together. I am very proud of calling myself *scenarist* of the group. When I acted I only said two lines – which isn't much – but the global story was well-played.

To conclude, the workshop was long but I enjoyed it. Playing is a hobby of mine, so I liked missing my morning classes for it. Moreover, I think we were a talented class. In order to prepare the workshop, we had to do a lot of research. I've always been passionate about Australia. I learnt about the Yolngu people and it was very interesting. I know I won't forget what I had the opportunity to learn. Furthermore, while I was away this past semester I was lucky enough to live with Australians. I missed the accent. Also, I was able to tell Dario the story of the emu war story – great story. Thanks for having us Dario and thanks to Rabelais for planning it out.

Noah Bensoussan





The Drama Workshop

Hello

Today I will speak about the drama workshop we had with an Australian actor, Dario Costa. The workshop took place on 18th, January, 2018 from 9am to 12am , in our school theater. Our teacher organized this event to teach us more about Australian culture and famous stories like an aboriginal tale or Ned Kelly and Mary Bryant, and teach us more about theater and how an actor gets ready to perform. Furthermore, this workshop helped us to feel at ease in the European class, and it made us more confident.

Dario Costa proposed a lot of activities during the morning, first we started with the warming-up, then we read a story about the Yolgnu people. And finally we prepared short scenes about Ned Kelly or Mary Bryant in small groups.

I loved the warming-up! It was very funny. First we walked on the stage . Dario asked us to clap our hands or jump, it was difficult at the end because when he said “jump” we had to clap our hands, and when he said ”clap your hands “ we had to jump. It required a bit of concentration and we had to be focused only on Dario’s voice.

During the warming up we were sometimes a bit embarrassed because we had to perform in front of everyone and to pretend we were childish, old or drunk; But it was very cool to see how the others played . And it was sometimes difficult to play the action because when he asked us to play cricket, everybody played croquet, because we didn’t know the difference between the two.

Then we read a text, I didn’t enjoy this moment a lot , if it had been shorter , it would have been better. We read the text twice and everybody read so it was very long, even if it was cool to see my friends playing the story, and to see someone playing the Didgeridoo,

And the last exercise was very interesting, we had to play a little scene about Ned Kelly , I really liked it because we had to choose how we wanted to play it, we chose our roles, our actions.

To conclude I really enjoyed this workshop, we learned a lot about theater, how they prepare a play, how they warm up, how they put on a show. We also learned about Australia and about famous stories. I did not expect the workshop to be like that at all, but it surprised me in the good way. We did a lot of warming up and it was my favourite moment.

Thank you for your attention .

Johana Roy

Last Thursday in the theatre of our High school, we met Dario Costa, an Australian actor with the European class.

First, Dario introduced himself, and his job. He explained to us what we were going to do during the next three hours.

So, we went on the stage and we began with little exercises to relax our bodies. I felt more free and positive. I think I will start again when I am anxious.

Then, we acted out emotions, and we tried to do as if we were sad, happy or angry with our facial expressions. We sometimes had to exaggerate our emotions. It was a little bit difficult, moreover I am shy and I was scared of the others' judgment. Still, it was funny to see everybody different from usual. We discovered each other in a new way.

After this little exercise, we sat on the floor in circle, and we talked together, Dario gave us his impressions and advice about our improvisation. Then, he showed us his musical instrument, it was very particular. It was a bamboo pipe, and it was decorated with little "drawings" about the Aborigines' life. The sound of the instrument was strange, I had never heard something similar.

At the beginning of the second hour, we started with the improvisation about the Aboriginal people with the text that our English teacher had given us in class. I think it was the best part of the workshop. Unfortunately, I didn't participate because I was scared to be in front of everyone. Yet I learnt a lot about facial expressions, and sound effects you can produce with your hands, mouth...

Then, we were divided into a few groups to interpret the text about the two convicts: Mary Bryant and Ned Kelly. That was a real staging job; it was the most challenging exercise. Indeed we had to get into the characters and everyone was supposed to believe it. Finally, when everyone showed what they had prepared I was surprised by the result.

At the end of the workshop, Dario talked about himself and we were able to ask him questions about himself or being an actor in theatre or in movies, how he relaxed before a performance, etc... I think it was interesting, but I am in a theatre club and I already knew what he said. So, I think it could have been shorter.

About my regrets, I would have liked to have more time to rehearse our scenes, because ten minutes was not enough. And I would also have preferred to improvise more.

Finally, I will remember the best of his workshop and it permitted to learn many things in three hours. I enjoyed it, it was a very good experience. It did not correspond exactly to what I expected, but it was much better.

Violette BOUVERET

