

## **Moon at Night: Reflection**

**By Lisa Lawrence, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles**

Having only been to open mic nights at my university, I thought I knew what to expect upon my arrival at Pentameters Theatre for the weekly Moon at Night. However, the series of performances I saw were unlike anything I'd ever been to before, and I remained entertained and engaged throughout the wildly diverse array of performance pieces. As to be expected, it was an older crowd than what I was used to at my college's open mic nights, which allowed for the poetry and singing pieces to be of higher quality than I was used to. In addition, during my time in London I have noticed that the residents here are a bit more reserved and quiet in general, yet during this performance I found myself being welcomed and talked with my fellow audience members far more than I was used to in the city. It was an extremely friendly mix of people that I was glad to have met, and hope to see again in the future at Pentameters!

It is quite difficult to pick a favorite performance, as I truly enjoyed each one for their individual merits. I believe that the haiku performer, James, had an incredibly dynamic stage presence that entertained me as well as the rest of the audience, and even if I could not quite follow with everything he was saying, it made me want to see more. In addition, I enjoyed Billy's poems a lot, due to his use of background music and his commanding, emotional delivery of the words. The love song performer, Jackson, was also very touching, and I always admire those who can write songs and perform them.

Overall, Moon at Night proved to me that creators and artists will always find one another, and find a way to do what they love. This was evidenced by the fact that, as more performers walked in, it seemed as if they all knew one another already. It also made me think about how crucial it is to form social connections with fellow theatre artists because not only is it important to surround oneself with people who have similar passions, they could be my colleagues one day, or even be a link to a career opportunity. Even though my career path is focused on design in the theatre, and does not lie in performance, I could see that I could have a future in this field by watching the talented presenters on stage. I felt inspired and moved by Léonie's dedication and final poem, because it truly struck a chord with how I feel about pursuing my passion as a theatre artist and wanting to prove naysayers wrong.