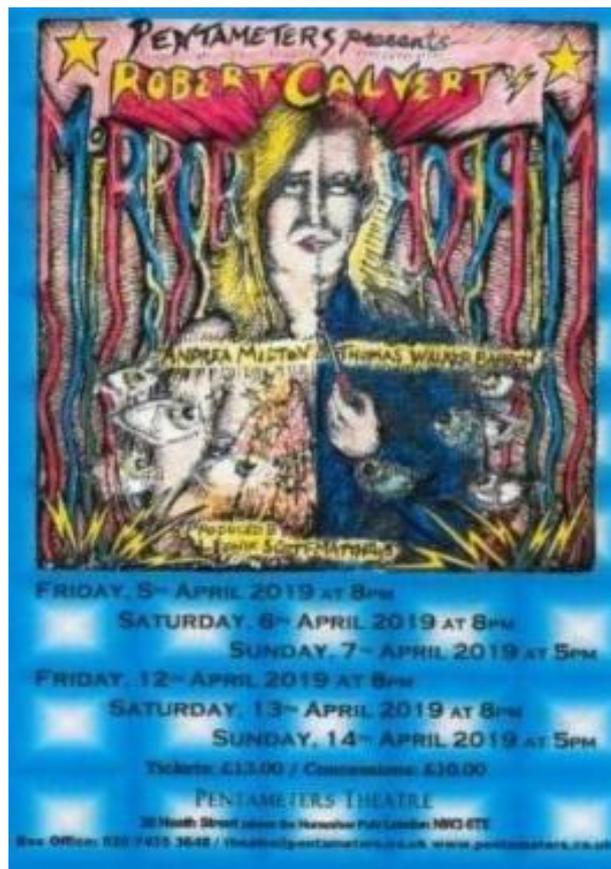


London Pub Theatres Magazine



MIRROR MIRROR by Robert Calvert
Pentameters Theatre, Hampstead 5 – 14 April 2019

'This clever futuristic fantasy manages to be funny and entertaining without losing any of its pathos' ★★★★★

This futuristic fantasy, set in 2030, is written by Robert Calvert (1945 – 1988) the renowned writer, poet, musician and lead singer with Hawkwind. Hawkwind's music welcomes us into the auditorium at the quaint and quirky Pentameters theatre. This time warp theatres seems the perfect setting for Robert Calvert's play, regarded as science fiction visionary theatre when it was written in 1979 and inspired by his friend, Helen Mirren. So, what has time taught us about this play?

Whilst some of its content is now more fact than fiction, the fantasy element brings a feeling of wonder at what might happen in the future. The story involves Eleanor Bryant, and her psychochromic dress which responds to her feelings and moods, and a multiperspectival mirror. The mirror is key to this story as it reflects herself, as others see her. Whilst mothers and children probably reflect a delightful image, this mirror does not reflect such a kind image from her husband. It appears that he's noticed she's aging. To correct this fault, she has to call upon a Technician from Reflexotronics, who happens to be a clone.

This is where Calvert has been clever because the debate he raises is as much about emotions, loneliness and aging as futurism. Whilst we are used to some of the issues raised through such television programmes as Humans, this was written way before that time. The two characters are wonderfully played by Andrea Milton and Thomas Walker Barron. Milton's naturalistic acting approach, worked well with Barron's more heightened techniques, given he is not human. His tics, whirs and general antics were well choreographed and led to much humour in its comic timing.

Well done to director Léonie Scott-Matthews for choosing to enhance the theatricality of the show in this way as this was so entertaining without losing any of its pathos.

For, it would be hard not to sympathise with both of the characters in their separate dilemma's. The young clone, inexperienced in life and the older more controlling women facing up to the truths the mirror is revealing.

Clever lighting from Sofia Cassidy enhanced the show, really changing Milton's lovely face and giving us various soft and harsh lighting effects. Godfrey Old's set design worked very well, especially the array of pills on the downstage dresser which seemed to have a story to tell all of their own. Only a small complaint, about the vase of hydrangeas which unfortunately obscured the view of the actors seated on the sofa. Could they go somewhere else?

Overall, Pentameters is one of those theatres that needs to be visited. There is always a warm welcome and the artiness of the interior must be seen to be appreciated.

Andrea Milton as Eleanor Bryant

Thomas Walker Barron as the Mirror Technician

Directed and produced by Léonie Scott-Matthews

Set Design, Sound Design and Artwork by Godfrey Old

Assistant Director, Stage Manager and Lighting Sofia Cassidy

Special thanks to Chris Purdon, publisher of the Robert Calvert Anthology in 2019

Tickets £13 / £10 concessions

Friday, 5th April 2019 at 8.00pm

Saturday, 6th April 2019 at 8.00pm

Sunday, 7th April 2019 at 5.00pm

Friday, 12th April 2019 at 8.00pm

Saturday, 13th April 2019 at 8.00pm

Sunday, 14th April 2019 at 5.00pm

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