Doctor Faustus

By: Christopher Marlowe

“One is always led to the truth he is ready for”

As a class, Approaches to Theatre, we’ve been studying the work of Bertolt Brecht and the genre of Epic Theatre. We’ve brought this approach into our production of Christopher Marlowe’s Dr. Faustus. Through the use of Alienation technique, the prominent technique of Epic Theatre, we hope to draw the audience away from the potential sentimentality of Marlowe’s work and into the social question: “What will we do to get knowledge and power?” For Dr. Faustus the answer comes in the form of selling his soul to Satan, literally. In our world today, we have less emphasis on the religious, but the notion of selling one’s soul (moral values) is still very present in our culture. All this in order to get more drugs, more sex, more money, more power, and the list goes on.

On a larger scale, how many innocent people have been sacrificed because the Western world needed more oil? How many children have lost parents because they thought earning more money was more important than being home with their children? Of course, it could be argued that Marlowe wrote his Dr Faustus in defence of the Renaissance concepts of humanity and that his intentions were to promote a liberalization of thought from the dogma of the church. Without arguing the position of dogma in today’s moral discourse we have undertaken this production in an attempt to recreate some of the questions Marlowe leaves us with. Using techniques from the theatrical practices of Epic theatre, such as video displays, songs, choral work and comedy, we hope to take you through Marlowe’s interpretation of Dr Faustus’ journey with a modern spin.

Aleksandar Lukac

Cast:
Chorus: Angela Higham, Denise Wong, Lia Munro, Jasdeep Kaler
Faustus: Paige Phillips, Michael Hodgson, Kingsley Mgadi
Mephistopheles: Greg Willmot, Jennifer Pogue
Lucifer: Megan Crowell
Wagner: Danielle Mailoux
Valdes: Deborah Ring
Cornelius: Ingrid Pleitez
Scholar I: Rene Beauregard
Scholar II: Megan Crowell
Scholar III: Catherine Ramsey
Clown: Rene Beauregard
Vintner: Rene Beauregard
Robin: Megan Crowell
Ralph: Catherine Ramsey
Bellzebub: Catherine Ramsey
Good Angel: Shani Dougherty Grant, Jasdeep Kaler
Evil Angel: Samantha Kimber
Friars: Lia Munro, Shani Dougherty Grant, Jasdeep Kaler, Alexey Orlovsky
Siavash Shabanpour, Angela Higham, Denise Wong
Duke: Olga Polstvin
Duchesse: Samantha Kimber
Old Women: Olga Polstvin
Knight: Alexey Orlovsky
Envy: Siavash Shabanpour
Gluttony: Alexey Orlovsky
Sloth: Angela Higham
Covetousness: Jasdeep Kaler
Pride: Lia Munro
Wrath: Denise Wong
Lechery: Shani Dougherty Grant, Samantha Kimber
Emperor: Deborah Ring
Pope: Deborah Ring
Cardinal of Lorraine: Ingrid Pleitez
Helen of Greece: Samantha Kimber
Horse Courser: Denise Wong
Devil: Siavash Shabanpour