Introduction for patrons who are blind or have low vision

OLD STOCK: A REFUGEE LOVE STORY By 2b Theatre Company from CANADA

Jan 24-25-28-29 & 30 at 7:30pm
Jan 26 at 1:30pm
Location: The Frederic Wood Theatre at UBC | Price: $39

Image description
Ben Caplan, as the Wanderer, wears a top hat, glasses, and purple trench coat, he has a long beard and long, unruly hair. He is holding a microphone and stretching out his hand as if he is reaching for something, behind him we see string lights hung among draped fabrics inside a shipping container.

Introduction

In the middle of the stage sits a red shipping container with ‘Tehva’ written on the right and on the left there are vertical numbers 0112358 13 24 34 55 89 144 233. Several dim stringed lights overhead begin at the shipping container and reach out over the audience.

When the lights go down and the music begins, The Wanderer, a bearded man with long hair and a top hat, pops out of the top of the box. At the end of the third verse, The Wanderer retreats back inside the box. On the beat of the fourth verse, the whole front of the box is opens up when The Wanderer and Chaya, open a huge door to either side, leaving it on an angle almost reaching the front of the stage. Inside the box, three more people are revealed. A drummer is tucked in the back left corner, an accordion and keyboard player is tucked in the back right corner. At the front of the box on the left is Chaim, playing the clarinet, he also plays the saxophone and flute. Chaya sits down at the front of the box on the right, facing Chaim across from her, and picks up the violin.

The Wanderer is wearing a velvet purple trench coat with a buttoned up yellowish double breasted waistcoat with a green dress shirt and grey trousers. He has a purple top hat and gold and black pointed leather shoes. Chaya is dressed in a black lace blouse with long sleeves and a high neck. She has a long wool dark purple skirt with a black lace overlay and pointed black shoes. Her hair is pulled back. Only her hands and neck up are visible. Chaim is wearing brown trousers with a beige embroidered linen shirt, an open green vest with suspenders and brown leather shoes. The keyboard and accordion player has red and white striped dress shirt, blank trousers, red stripe suspenders, black leather shoes, and a black fedora. The drummer has a brown bowler hat, grey striped shirt, maroon vest, beige plaid trousers, and brown leather shoes.

The interior of the box, including the doors that fan out now, is textured with draping fabrics of velvet and crocheted burgundies, purples, reds, and deep blues along with suitcases that become the main set pieces. All lighting, sound, props, and performers remain inside the box. It is only The Wanderer who ventures outside the box and interacts directly with the audience. All music is performed by the five people on stage.
At the beginning of scene 1 Chaim and Chaya stand in the center of the box side by side with suitcases. At one point Chaya shows Chaim a photo of Yochay in her locket, making her move closer.

At the beginning of the song, "You've Arrived", on the line “I will need a volunteer, maybe two to get us going..” The Wanderer grabs two puppets from inside his jacket, one male and one female, and is quite rough with them as he continues singing. Eventually, he throws both up into the air causing them to fall off stage.

At the start of scene 2 Chaim and Chaya are in the center of the box. Chaya hands Chaim a cup of tea and gestures for him to sit on a stool. He does and she sits across from him.

When Chaim decides to leave, he stands. There is a pause. Then Chaya stands, takes his tea cup, fills it with more tea, and hands it back to him.

Chaim and Chaya perform a wedding dance. Chaya slowly circles Chaim who is standing in the center of the box. Chaya and Chaim turn to face each other and join the music by playing the clarinet and flute.

After the wedding, Chaim goes in to kiss Chaya but pulls back. Then he leans in again to kiss Chaya. Chaya leads a second kiss asserting her passion and desire.

In scene 4, when Chaim comes home with sugar, at one point Chaya abruptly takes the sugar out of Chaim's hand and begins unbuttoning Chaim's shirt. Chaim recoils a bit from Chaya's attempt to remove his shirt. She stops when he repeats. “No, Chaya, what are you doing?” When Chaya asks him to show that he is sorry, Chaim drops his arms submissively and she proceeds to pull down his shirt revealing his bare arms and white undershirt. The lights go dark on them a quick beat after.

After the song, “Plough the Shit” the music softens and a dim spotlight on Chaya shows her rocking a baby in her arms as the Lullaby begins.

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