



REVIEWS

by 1ère Euro Charles Tellier students

“Tiens ta garde” is a French theater play created and interpreted by the “Collectif Marthe” based on the philosophical work of Elsa Dorlin. The group wrote the play alongside Guillaume Cayet. The show talks about the rights of women and their self-defense in our society and uses a lot of comical elements, often surreal. This show starts by introducing three characters, three women, one being the professor of martial art and self-defense and the other two women are the students. As previously stated in this review, even though there are scenes that contain serious moments, this play is mostly a comedy that is quite surreal, for example, sometimes in the middle of a martial art lesson, characters can be replaced by others, the lesson itself changes into something else and right after that, it goes back to normal like nothing happened. Another example of this strange direction is the dream sequence of one of the characters, where random characters interact with her. Added by the constantly changing background, the scene is dreamlike for a reason I think. This makes the play very unique, fun and entertaining to watch and conveys the director’s message pretty well. This show was directed by Clara Bonnet, Marie-Ange Gagnaux, Aurélia Lüscher and Maybie Vareilles who also play all of the characters and they are the founders of the “Collectif Marthe” since 2018, were they would create a play called “Le Monde Inversé”. “Tiens ta garde” premiered back in May of 2020. They pick the 8th of March to perform it again, because this date is the International Women’s

Day, which is appropriate given the subject of the play itself. For me, this show did a pretty good job in its execution, it can be funny, entertaining and sometimes serious about those feminist ideas, however, not everything is perfect, for example some costumes in the dream sequence can look cheap at times. The acting depends if it is a comical or serious situation and it is done quite well and brings the play to life. With that said, the over the top performance on the comical parts might annoy some viewers and some jokes about body parts of women and at one time a bit of gore in one scene can distract some viewers. Overall, I personally recommend this show for its comical approach and ideas, but it might not be for everyone. I give it 4 out of 5 !

Mabire Jules 1A

The playwright of the play is Guillaume Cayet and the company who put on this play is the company "Collectif Marthe", they play because they are from the school named "la Comédie de Saint-Étienne".

The play is executed by using the present and the past, with scenes of a life of a teacher of self-defense and sometimes there is like "ruptures" that are in the past. This is all about the woman and how she was respected before today. The director's vision is the firm intention of deconstructing what conditions us, the Collectif Marthe made a play on the self-defense. The way we go in the past and return in the present, and the part where we go "in the brain" of the self-defense teacher is unique about the interpretation. In fact it's a style of mix with the progress on the present and the return in the past.

On the specificities of the production we can add that the unique thing of the play is how the temporality is approaching. And the producers are the "Collectif Marthe" and Guillaume Cayet, the "Collectif Marthe" has already organised plays like "Le Monde Renversé" and Guillaume Cayet that has already written plays like "Courail". The play "Tiens ta garde" is a remount, not a premiere.

In my opinion, this play is successful in its execution because of the fact that it shows how conditioned we are and since when: always, and it shows what self-defense is and its goal. But the vulgarity adds an unnecessary part to the play, without, the message would have been more agreeable to understand. In the details, there is something out of place, in fact, sometimes the costumes of past scenes were still worn in scenes of the present. I think it put us out of the play and it disturbs us a little. The humour and the vulgarity in some scenes stands out. Also, the acting brings life to the play because the scenes are very realistic and the humour breaks the serious subject broach. To conclude, we could say yes that the vision suits the intention, because the intention was to deconstruct what conditions us and by explaining history stories, and they explain how ridiculous were/is the

men supremacy and how women are strong with the feminist theme they have broached.

To conclude this review, I would say that the play is worth seeing because of the original way we go in the temporality, the humour and the historic facts that are very interesting (even if sometimes the facts were changed a little to be more funny). But, it is too regularly vulgar and very repetitive at the end with the cycle past-present, and I would add that the play is maybe a little bit too feminist. I give a final rating of 1.5 stars out of 5.

Amandine Joubert 1A

Tiens ta Garde

Tiens ta Garde is a play written by Guillaume Cayet with the help of Collectif Marthe. Four actresses, trained at the school of comedy of Saint-Etienne, playing on this play. Their goal is to defend the cause of women and the self-defence they have developed through the ages in several actions and speech while laughing. *Tiens ta Garde* is inspired by the philosopher Elsa Dorlin which is defending violence on women.

So with energie, determination and humor, the Collectif Marthe set up a play to remind the women's rights and their everyday inequalities and that they can fight.

Tuesday, March 8th 2022, on the Scene 61 in Flers, those four actresses was playing women who learnt to fight against violence which their suffering every day. Through characters, they can remind the place of women not only in the present but also in the past. At many times of the play, they interpreted men like scientists, politicians and doctors who spoke of women like things, objects... But they fought back. The play took place 3 acts; at first each in turn they interpreted the role of women in the time. Then in a dream we could see a woman who wants to learn to defend herself alone against men which denigrate her. Finally, the last act shows us the attitude that men generally have regarding women.

On this international women's rights day, these four young women wanted to learn about self-defense by going from laughing to tears, to cries of joy. They succeeded to clearly convey the message from the playwright to the viewer. Women are strong !

Romane. D 1A