Inga R. II D*sp

Not long ago I was lucky to see a play called "A Disappearing Number". As a result of the pandemic limitations, this event was organized online. That's why we were able to watch the Complicité Theatre performance from 2007.

The story was based on true events- almost 100 years ago professor GH Hardy collaborated with self-taught mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Together they've completely changed scientific world and made one of the most important discoveries of 20th century.

But surprisingly- this is not all! Behind these scenes, another story is presented. This time we're dealing with a complicated romance between Ruth- a passioned maths professor and a businessman- Al Cooper.

These two couples were somehow connected. It's not only the fact, that both were struggling with wonders of maths and its influence on everyday life. It's also about India, where Ramanujan was born and raised. Lately, Ruth is travelling there to discover this place, mainly because of him.

The director of this play did a marvelous job. Thanks to technology, special mathematics projections (like floating patterns) were created, which added a mysterious vibe to the performance. Also, we can congratulate the design director. The scenery was well thought out, especially the blackboard that makes everything fluent. And last but not least, we need to appreciate acting: absolutely breathtaking, actors really did their job and by interactions they convinced us, that maths can be interesting and fascinating.

I'm really glad I could see "A Disappearing Number", because it made me think. Even if we don't enjoy mathematics that much, someday we'll have to come across it. It has a big influence on what we think and what we see. Upholding the heritage of the scientific world is the cruel point of our life journey. In fact, if we forget our past, we will have no future.

I really enjoyed watching this play. Although it was very confusing at first, it made me appreciate the phenomenon of mathematics, despite still not knowing, how it exactly works.

Martyna P. II A*sp

A Disappearing Number

"A Disappearing Number" is a 2007 play produced by the "Theatre de Complicite". The play follows two storylines at the same time. The first one is a story of a genius Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. However, his story is not a typical case of a worldwide known scholar. Ramanujan was self-taught, which means he achieved university-level mathematics on his own! The other one focuses on a professor passionate about the beauty of mathematics. She spends her life admiring the elegance of the world through the eyes of mathematicians.

The two plots incredibly connect and complement each other. The present-day part allows viewers to thoroughly relate to the characters and deeply understand the complicated personality of Ramanujan. The creative use of technology and the background of the scene made the transitions almost seamless. Thanks to this the play transforms from a regular biography into an engaging performance.

Other thing worth mentioning is the use of comedy. From the beginning, the play contains jokes and humorous comments. Their appearance does not affect the impact of the plot. Instead, it lightens the mood of the audience, making the experience more enjoyable. The performance of the actors as well as the costumes brought everything together thus creating a memorable play, which can be enjoyed not only by mathematics enthusiasts.

Personally I found "A Disappearing Number" an entertaining experience with an educational aspect. Srinivasa Ramanujan's story is incredibly beautiful, and it's worth everyone's time.