

Title:	A Play on Words
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Abstract

"A Play on Words" is a performance of a series of compiled monologues, presented on 29th April at the Shaw Lecture Theatre. Monologues include the "To be or not to be" speech from Hamlet, excerpts from Caryl Churchill's *The Skriker* and *Far Away*, and the "tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow" speech from Macbeth.

The initial piece was introduced as a self-parody, the performer finds his performance fake and ingenuine as he is overwhelmed with a sense of hypocrisy, most likely due to the use of cliches as well as a possibility of misrepresentation. The performer, despite his emphasis on how fake he finds his performance, is nonetheless (perhaps unwillingly) immersed in his monologue and thrown back into a PTSD-esque recreation of the imagination/memory that follows.

The following monologue (excerpt from *Far Away*) was done with the aid of a recording, which the performer (a court spectator who was at the hearing of the first performer) completed a "duologue" with. *The Skriker* excerpt was then presented as a dictator-like speech. These two monologues explore the themes of conflict, peace and power through different narratives.

The final monologue was then presented in the form of an audiovisual piece, with the speech given (in order) by an old man, the performer on the stage, and two children.

Reflection

While this Capstone was not necessarily my best theatre work, it is one of the things that I am proud of completing in my university life.

Indeed, looking back it was obvious that my performance (from the execution, creative process, even to the choice of monologues) was laden with flaws, but it provided a great opportunity for me to look back at myself and realise two things:

- 1) What my most obvious obstacles and (subsequently) weaknesses were when it comes to creative work, and;
- 2) What I really wanted to achieve/bring out from these four years of university

Especially with all that is happening in the world, I don't want to confine my studies just to textbooks, readings and papers. I hope that this Capstone is only the beginning to the journey that lies ahead.