



Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

PARALLAX: A Poignant Exploration of Identity

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Kornél Mundruczó's PARALLAX is an emotionally charged and an intellectually stimulating theatrical masterpiece that delves into the complexities of identity across three generations of one Hungarian family. Performed by the Proton Theatre, this production is a nuanced exploration of heritage, self-discovery, perceptions, emotions, feelings, and the burdens and privileges of identity.

Mundruczó, with his exceptional direction, has created a profound and resonant piece that challenges audiences to reflect on their own perceptions and the legacies they inherit. Set in a cramped Budapest apartment, PARALLAX is an intimate yet expansive narrative that captures the intricacies of familial relationships and the individual quests for meaning and self-acceptance. The title itself, referring to the phenomenon where the position or direction of an object appears to differ when viewed from different angles, perfectly encapsulates the thematic essence of the play. It is through this lens that Mundruczó presents the intersecting lives of a grandmother, her daughter, and her grandson, each grappling with their identities.

The grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, is a character of immense depth and complexity. Her refusal to accept an honorary medal for her survival is a powerful act of defiance and an assertion of her agency. This poignant decision underscores the tension between personal history and public recognition, raising questions about the ways in which society commodifies and politicizes trauma. The grandmother's story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, and her portrayal is both heartbreaking and inspiring.

The daughter's narrative is equally compelling. In her struggle to secure her son's future in Berlin by proving his Jewish heritage, she confronts the bureaucratic and often arbitrary nature of identity verification. This plotline poignantly highlights the external pressures and systemic challenges faced by those navigating multiple cultural identities. The daughter's journey is a stark reminder of how identity can be both a source of pride and a tool of exclusion, depending on the societal context.

The grandson's storyline adds another layer of richness to the play. As a gay man, he faces his own battles of acceptance within a society that still harbors deep-seated prejudices. His quest for self-identity and acceptance is depicted with sensitivity and honesty, making his struggles relatable and profoundly moving. His character brings to light the ongoing issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community in Hungary, a country marked by numerous restrictions and social stigmas.

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Mundruczó's direction is nothing short of masterful. He skillfully weaves these individual stories into a cohesive and compelling narrative, using the confined setting of the apartment to amplify the emotional intensity of the interactions. The set design is minimal yet effective, allowing the audience to focus on the characters and their stories. The use of space reflects the internal claustrophobia of the characters, trapped by their histories and societal expectations.

The performances by the cast are stellar, bringing authenticity and emotional depth to their roles. The grandmother is portrayed with a remarkable blend of strength and vulnerability, her every gesture and expression speaking volumes about her inner turmoil and fortitude. The daughter's portrayal captures the frustration and determination of a woman caught between duty and desire, tradition and progress. The grandson's performance is both poignant and powerful, his journey of self-acceptance depicted with raw honesty.

One of the most striking elements of PARALLAX is its exploration of perspective. Mundruczó effectively uses the concept of parallax to show how different viewpoints can drastically alter one's understanding of identity and history. This thematic device is not only intellectually stimulating but also deeply relevant in today's world, where issues of identity, heritage, and belonging are constantly being re-examined. The play challenges audiences to consider their own biases and assumptions, encouraging a more empathetic and nuanced understanding of others.

The play's exploration of Jewish identity and the LGBTQ+ experience in Hungary adds a vital cultural and political dimension to the narrative. It sheds light on the specific challenges faced by these communities, from the legacy of the Holocaust to contemporary issues of acceptance and rights. Mundruczó's decision to address these themes is both courageous and necessary, providing a voice to those who are often marginalized and overlooked.

In conclusion, PARALLAX is a triumph of contemporary theater. Kornél Mundruczó and Proton Theatre have crafted a work that is as intellectually stimulating as it is emotionally resonant. The play's intricate exploration of identity, heritage, and perspective is both timely and timeless, offering a profound commentary on the human condition. The exceptional performances, combined with Mundruczó's visionary direction, make PARALLAX a must-see production. It is a powerful reminder of the complexities of identity and the importance of understanding and empathy in a world that often seeks to divide. This production not only entertains but also enlightens, leaving a lasting impact on all who experience it.

[Bericht online lesen:](https://culture.en-a.eu/kunst_kultur_und_musik/parallax_a_poignant_exploration_of_identity-89162/)

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