Get on it!

RANG: Shades of my soul - A Review

What this Broadway production accomplished for South Asian art can only be fully appreciated by those that were in attendance. If you missed it, you missed a night of life.

by Khalid Ilahi

How does one try to come up with a way to express thoughts on a production that I feel I cannot ever do any justice to by mere words. I'm speaking about "RANG: Shades of my soul" by Shaun Singh. For the first time, an Indian based theme, with Indian characters took place on Broadway's Town Hall Theatre on June 1st, 2002.

First, let me explain the premise for the play: Domestic Violence. Enough said. We are taken on a thought-provoking, heart pressing ride with our lead character, Anjaani. A woman that we all know and can sympathize with. She is open and honest, and therefore is susceptible to abuse by her lover. After experiencing some disgraceful acts, we see Anjaani become withdrawn, overshadowed by life and slowly come to be an angry woman.

Throughout her depressing existence, Anjaani is shown to be weakened and accepting of a less than ideal situation. But slowly she gathers her senses, becomes strong and begins to rise out of her miserable surroundings. We see her become a beautiful and powerful woman.

Its a pretty simple and to-the-point plot as you can see. But as I said in opening this review, my words do no justice to the beauty, charm and execution of this play. The use of colors, dance, inspiring costumes and the perfect lighting and stage set-up. I have not been gifted enough to

describe the masterful art form in which all of this was carried out.

Each act and segment was meaningful, the use of colors actually had a purpose, hence the word Rang, which means color in Hindi/Urdu. Symbolism played a part in the entire production, each women was represented by Anjaani and each man was her lover and abuser. Everything

Community Poll

Do you believe in arranged marriages?

- No, they never work
- Yes, we should keep our culture
- They're good for certain people
- I will marry who I want to marry damn it!

Vote Results

(293 Polled)

represented by Ahjaani and each man was her lover and abuser. Everything else was emotion and setting.

The entire cast did a wonderful job, and you can tell that a lot of hard work and serious dedication went into Rang. The producer/director, Shaun Singh deserves praises from women and men alike, for bringing a serious issue out in the open in such a beautiful and respectful manner. All of the dancers/actors were superb. The stage lighting in itself deserves an award for its impact.

It would be a shame if we did not see similar productions come to life now. Shaun Singh cannot stop here, he must exceed his work in RANG and enlighten us some more. For if we don't experience these types of projects in our community, we will indeed be the lesser for it.

Do you have any thoughts on this? Feel free to send Khalid an e-mail @ Khalid Ilahi.

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