

Explore the function of theatre Aotearoa

5 Credits



Astroman - The Elements

Where is the play set?- Whakatane

Time1983

Place Local Whakatane gaming parlour named Astrocade

How do we know this? We know this because in the script it gives us a brief summary on the time and place the play was set and Jimmy narrates this at the begin of the play



Situation

What happened?

Jimmy moved to the small town of Whakatane. Jimmy and his brother Sonny were bullied by Mick due to them being Māori. This made Jimmy feel like he was no good and didn't belong. During this time he found a safe haven in the local Whakatane arcade astrocade. Jimmy was made to work at the arcade as a punishment for stealing the bike but ended up forming a bond with the arcade owner Mr Macrae- and becoming proud of who he is.



Focus - Theme or Idea- heal.

What is an important idea or issue that is explored in the play?

Racism, bullying and the importance of family

Throughout their play Mick uses different racial slurs towards Jimmy and his twin brother Sonny because they're Maori. At school Jimmy gets viewed differently because he's Maori so he acts up and acts out how everyone else views him.

Throughout the play the importance of family is shown multiple times, like when Jimmy stood up to Mick when he was going to beat Sonny up. It is also so with him and his mother as she knew Jimmy was always getting into trouble but stood by him the whole time. I think this is important for audiences to know it is not just family that heals you and that it can be someone who is not blood.



Symbol and Atmosphere

What object or action was symbolic in the play? How did it link to the action?

What were the feelings or moods created by the setting and actions?

Jimmy stealing the bike was negative action which led to a punishment. This in turn led to a positive outcome, because the relationship formed between the grieving Mr Macrae, and a troubled Jimmy transformed both of their lives.

Manaakitanga

1. How did we show manaakitanga in our performance? By understanding the scene that my group and I chose. Manaakitanga is an important aspect of Maori culture, which is respect and understanding towards others.

This might be:

1. How we worked in our group. The group helped with supporting me when I missed a few lessons they helped me by catching up.

2. What we discussed as a class. As a class we discussed this in different forms as pairs, as classmates how we might see Manaakitanga, by respecting each other, the environment, teacher and peers.

3. How I was as an audience member. As an audience member I respectfully sat there listened and watched others perform their pieces.

4. How I respected and understood my character through subtext. How I showed Manaakitanga with my character was, respecting towards his accent and showing how his depression is slowly taking over his life.

5. How my characters showed manaakitanga through their relationships.

6. My character showed Manaakitanga by bringing in Jimmy and Sunny into his life and offering a job for Jimmy permanently at the arcade.



Educate, Entertain and Heal

How does this piece of Theatre Aotearoa

Educate? This piece educates us in the different themes of racism, bullying and homophobia when Mick was using homophobic slurs that wouldn't be used as much now days and that all family isn't blood.

Entertain? This script is quite witty, funny and gives people a different point of life.

Heal? To me by being on stage heals me it makes me forget anything that is going on in my life and just focus on what makes me me.