

COMPONENTS USED

PRODUCTION CONCEPTS

Write your ideas in the boxes. Think about the intent of your piece. Consider the audience. Ensure that your ideas are practical.

PLAY TITLE: Shuriken

PLAYWRITE: Vincent O'Sullivan

1 Set design + audience location

The set was the actual site of the prisoner of war camp. The audience was placed directly in front of us.

2 function of the piece- educate, heal, entertain, transform

The function of the piece is largely to educate. This massacre is very unknown in the region even though it was so significant. Through the play, Vincent O'Sullivan aims to teach people about this significant event so close to them. It is also meant to transform society. By educating people about this, Vincent also aims to make people act differently now that they know. While this would mostly be to prevent similar things from happening again, it could also be to give people more care for the region and for its history. This play really is meant to transform Aotearoa society, by telling New Zealand what they don't really want to hear. The function of educating really works on two levels, there's the surface of teaching people about this event but there's also a deeper lesson to all mankind about war. Everyone knows war is horrific, but why does it still happen in the same way it has for thousands of years. Shuriken aims to teach us to prevent this.

3 How do you create tension, mood, atmosphere?

We created tension mood and atmosphere through our conventions. The freeze frames of the massacre added tension, while the prisoners being on their knees created a dark mood.

4 Style of the piece

I believe the piece is largely in the style of a tragedy. However rather than taking the usual idea of good vs bad, there are no sides as everyone ends up worse off from the needless death. No one takes the time to consider it from the other perspective.

5 Technologies used

This piece used multiple different technologies, including props, costumes, set etc. Every character was dressed in their own costume, all the soldiers were in army uniforms while the prisoner in ragged torn clothes. For props, all the soldiers carried guns. Most were model rifles apart from the adjutant who carried a pistol. The set was the physical site of the massacre and prisoner of war camp. We did this to make the play more impactful to us as it made the characters feel more real. Another technology we used was the equipment used to record the piece. We used a camera with a built in microphone to record audio as well.

How does it resonate here today?

Shuriken is a powerful play whose message will always be relevant, especially to New Zealand. New Zealanders love New Zealand, they always have, and they always will. Being so far away from the main fighting of WW2, New Zealanders love to hear about important things that happened on our home soil, except the massacre at this POW camp is almost completely unknown. Though the country does love hearing about the wonderful things it did, they choose to ignore horrific acts like this one, as people don't want to know that they brutally slaughtered so many Japanese. Racism and prejudice are huge topics in the modern world that Shuriken clearly displays, and New Zealand can't think that it's free of racism or prejudice. We have countless examples of racism in this country and this one relating to WW2 could really have an impact. It could be what helps us get past our ideas of racism, and past our prejudice. This play is one that can really push New Zealand into a more equitable society. This play really is meant to transform Aotearoa society, by telling New Zealanders what they don't really want to hear. This play is also relevant due to the idea of war. War is something that has been around for all human history and a play that shows the horrors of it will always be relevant. You may think that in 2023, there are only a few wars happening, Russia-Ukraine is likely the only current one you can name. However, according to Wikipedia there are 54 armed wars currently taking place. War will always resonate across the whole world, and New Zealand is no

exception to that. With the Russia-Ukraine war, it's happening in the same way WW2 begun, with one country attempting to "take back its old land". The fact that it's happening in the same way shows that mankind has not learnt its lesson about war, and Shuriken tries to teach it. Wars happen because we're greedy, and we refuse to see ideas from the other sides perspective.

Transcript of audio file re manaakitanga

0:01

Throughout the theatre Aotearoa internal, I have shown manaakitanga using Shuriken.

0:06

I've shown respect for my peers by admiring and complimenting their personal ways of showing their characters.

0:12

I have cared for my peers by helping them when they have struggled with performing or sharing emotion on stage.

0:20

I've shown reciprocity with the group, by providing ideas to improve the performance and accepting others' ideas.

0:27

This performance has connected me to my peers.

0:30

and showed me more about the way they act.

0:33

This piece has educated me about a meaningful event in our local history as we were playing real people, some of whom died in the real-life version.

0:44

It has transformed me as now I look back at the site, and the Wairarapa history in a whole new light.