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Commentary

Rashomon (1976)

Fall 1976

Rashomon Review

Kirk Purvis

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F - ANOTHER COLLEGE EFFORT, PROVIDENCE COLLEGE'S RASHAMON IS SURPRISING IT'S
SURPRISINGLY COMPLEX, RICH, MODERN AND SUCCESSFUL BASED ON JAPANESE
LEGEND, THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND A SINGLE INCIDENT OF RAPE AND MURDER.
KOJIMOTO, THE BANDIT, HAS ROPED THE HUSBAND AND RAPED THE WIFE IN
FRONT OF HIM. THE HUSBAND IS LATER FOUND WITH HIS JEWELLED SWORD
THROUGH HIS HEART. THE QUESTION PERSISTS, WHO KILLED HIM.
WITH ALL THE COMPLEXITY OF A HOLLYWOOD WHO DONE IT AND THE
SYMBOLISM OF LEGITIMATE DRAMA, FOUR ALTERNATIVE VERSIONS ARE PRESENTED.
THE ACTION IS BROUGHT WITH QUESTION OF TRUTH, HONOR, VANITY
PREJUDICE AND LOVE. IT CONTRASTS MAN'S HEROIC

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VISION OF HIMSELF AND HIS HUMBLE REALITY. IT ALSO TOUCHES ON QUESTIONS OF MASCULINITY AND FEMINISM, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASS, AND PEOPLE'S WILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED. IT IS SURPRISINGLY MODERN.

THE PRODUCTION ITSELF IS EXCELLENT. WALKING INTO THE GYMNASIUM-LIKE THEATER, THIS REVIEWER WAS ESPECIALLY STRUCK BY THE IMAGINATIVE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE SCENIC DESIGN. A SENSE OF ASIAN RESTRAINT WAS EVIDENT IN THE COSTUMING AS WELL. CHARACTERIZATIONS WERE SIMILARLY CRISP. KOJONOTO PLAYED BY ROBERT PERRY AND THE WIFE BY ANGELA DIAS EFFECTIVELY PORTRAYED A WIDE VARIETY OF HUMAN EMOTION. WILLIAM HARRISON OFFERED THE AUDIENCE A VERY COMIC AND EQUALLY HUMAN LINK TO THE ACTION. PROVIDENCE COLLEGE THEATER ARTS PROGRAM HAS GOOD REASON FOR PRIDE. THE FINAL PERFORMANCE OF ROSHOMON WILL BE GIVEN TONIGHT AT 8:00 IN PROVIDENCE COLLEGE'S HARKIN HALL. THIS IS KIRK PURVIS.

Dear John Baurty -
Here's a copy of the review
which was aired Sat. night. Congratulations
on a good production.