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many thanks to all of the above for their generous support

Patrons donate £10 per annum (£15 for joint patronage), get priority booking for tickets and a £1 discount (£2 for joint patronage) on their first ticket order per production.

If you would like to become a patron please send your payment to:

Martin Smith, 18 Langley Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 7LH

annual patrons' evening: 2020 season announcement

The annual Patrons' Evening will be on Friday 17th August. This evening is exclusively for patrons of Studio 61.

In addition to a cheese and wine supper and the announcement of two pre-selected 2020 plays you will also be treated to a series of rehearsed play reading excerpts and given the opportunity to vote for your favourite as the Patrons' Choice production. Further details in your next newsletter.

studio 61 presents

proof

by david auburn

21st - 24th february

victory hall, lower penn, wv4 4un

box office: 01902 651828

tickets: £8

including refreshments

www.studio61.org.uk

director's notes

The 19C Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, said that, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." In 'Proof' we see a series of scenes, that jump forwards and backwards in time, in the lives of four characters - Catherine, her mathematician father Robert, who is a professor at the University of Chicago, her sister Claire and a one-time student of her father named Hal.

The existentialists who followed Kierkegaard, such as Sartre, Camus and Nietzsche, asserted that life has no meaning, other than the one we personally assign to it. The events in 'Proof' are interpreted and given meaning through the understanding of the four characters in the play and we, the audience, are invited to consider each viewpoint. Whose assessment is the truest? Indeed, is there a real, objective truth for a disinterested observer to discover?

Mathematics, the framing subject for the play, is a human construct with abstruse formulations, not an absolute reality. For example, we may slice a cake into three equal portions and call each a third - we understand this as a fraction of the whole, a ratio or rational number. And yet if we express that value as a decimal - 0.33333... recurring, suddenly that same value, that was and still represents one third, which when tripled, paradoxically equals 0.9999... recurring, a number exceedingly close to, but not exactly 1.

Mathematical proofs are inferential arguments constructed from axioms, theorems and a priori assumptions accepted as true. So are our interpretations and understandings of life, our relationships, our loves, our duties and our loyalties. These are what are explored in 'Proof' through the lives of Catherine, Robert, Claire and Hal.

An equally significant theme of 'Proof' is mental health, particularly with regard to Robert, Catherine's mathematical genius father. What qualities, good and bad, have Catherine, and Claire too, inherited from their father? What role

does mental instability play as a partial source of Robert's insights into complex mathematical concepts? A number of geniuses from history have had mental issues to deal with: Beethoven, Michelangelo, Dickens, Darwin, Newton, Tolstoy and many more.

Then there is the question of the provision of care for the mentally ill. 'Proof' asks us to consider the impact, burden and responsibilities laid on Catherine and Claire, in assessing and providing for the practicalities of Robert's needs as his mental state slowly deteriorates through periods of both confusion and remission.

'Proof' isn't condescending or didactic; it doesn't hand down false reassurances by providing answers to these questions. It merely presents them to us and gives us a touching, familiar and sympathetic portrayal of the beauty and frailty of human existence.

Thank you for attending, I hope you enjoy the performance.

kevin porter

studio 61 presents

proof

by david auburn

cast

robert andy alsop
catherine sarah carter
hal steph haynes
claire lucy hayreh

This play contains strong language.

The total running time will be approximately 140 minutes. This will include an interval of 20 minutes at which point refreshments will be available in the foyer.

Please ensure that all mobile phones are turned off during the performance.

In the event of an emergency the front of house staff will guide you to the emergency exit.

crew

director kevin porter
prompt maggie smith
sound and lighting martin smith
stage manager suzanne smith
assistant stage manager sue hay
costume and props suzanne smith
members of the cast
set building ieuuan parry
 david bickley
refreshments rita dudek
 joan worrall
front of house manager ann bickley
front of house members of the society
site manager david bickley
photographer poppy wooddissee



become a member of studio 61

Whether you want to tread the boards or help backstage, we're always looking for new members to join us at Studio 61. We rehearse from 7:30 - 9:30 on Monday and Friday evenings at Victory Hall, Lower Penn.

Email us at mail@studio61.org.uk for more information, or come along for one of our play read-throughs and auditions as listed in the section below:

join us for our next production

The Safari Party

by Tim Firth

13 - 16th June 2019 at Victory Hall

Three households have agreed to hold a 'safari party' - a dinner party, with each course served in a different house. The hors d'oeuvres are served by Daniel and Adam, young brothers whose abusive father was recently shot dead, the entrées by Lol and Esther, upwardly-mobile and vulgar, and the desserts by Inga, a seemingly benign antiques dealer. However: there's the question of the table...

Play Read-Throughs and Auditions

We're looking for actors to get involved with The Safari Party. If you're interested, join us on:

Monday 25th February at 7:30pm at Victory Hall

Friday 1st March at 7:30pm at Victory Hall

Monday 8th March at 7:30pm at Victory Hall

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