

Platanos College News

Thursday 21st September 2017

Pupil review of 'Wings'

We went to see 'Wings', a play about a woman who was a pilot in her younger days and had suffered a stroke. It tells about her life and recovery in the hospital, depicting her struggles to remember basic actions and words and also the way she thought and interacted with people. The script was amazingly written with subtle but noticeable artistic metaphors such as the reoccurrence of Emily, the protagonist, flying around the scene – this represented the moments where she drifted off in her own thoughts and was lost or trapped in her head. The way she flew around the stage was cleverly executed as she was not interacting with the other actors involved; they seemed unaware of her position which indicated that it was her own imagination at work.

When Emily appeared, flying in her thoughts, she had no problem communicating using regular, even eloquent, language to express herself. When she came back to the real world, however, she had a tough time remembering words and phrases and couldn't speak to the doctors properly. The progression of thought in her head throughout the play was from, in the beginning, of a sceptical person who didn't trust the medics and believed them to be spies, to a woman who understood her situation and was working to solve her problems.

One detail that I noticed at the beginning of the play as Emily flew around the stage was that the way she flew was chaotic and elevated - in other words, she flew high and fast - but as the play progressed and her condition got better, she began to touch her feet on the ground, making slow movements with her arms and legs. This implied that she was more sane, calm and intelligent than she was before.

Overall, it was an amazing play: the acting, the scriptwriting and the subtle artistic touches are what make it a rare find. Some people say art is dead but this play made me think otherwise.

Written by Victor Fernandez Gaino and Paulo Goncalves Azevedo.