The Misadventures of

PER GYNT

ŻiguŻajg 2018 - Resource Pack

Malta Youth Orchestra • Chris Dingli • André Agius

Keywords:
Symphonic Music
Theatre
Visual Story-telling
Classical Literature

The Misadventures of Peer Gynt

Pack Prepared by André Agius
Venue: Manoel Theatre, Main Auditorium
Date: 16th November 9.30 am, 11.30 am
Runtime: 1hr
Age: 8+

01 Synopsis

Join Peer, a young farmer-boy, in this timeless classic, where he proves that making your dreams come true is the greatest adventure of all. Using his imagination, Peer leaves his farm behind, and ventures to far-away places, from sailing the high seas to fighting off the evil Troll King while making some new friends along the way – will he be back in time to continue farming as his mother told him, or will his day-dreams get the better of him?

02 Background

'Peer Gynt' was written in 1867 by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen is now considered one of the pillars of 19th-century realism text-based theatre, while Peer Gynt is one of the most well-known plays, particularly for utilising poetic verse to combine folkloric fantasy with realistic scenes, deeply rooted in human nature.

In 1874, Ibsen asked composer Edward Grieg to join him in composing music to accompany Peer Gynt. Norway proved to be the influence for both artists as Ibsen drew inspiration from a Norwegian fairytale, while Grieg's music was influenced by the Norwegian folk tunes. Grieg represented Peer Gynt's journey around the world through the use of different instruments. The Peer Gynt suites are among his best-known works.

The protagonist is Peer Gynt, a young Norwegian farmer known for being a lazy and boastful boy. Peer gets lost in his day-dreams venturing to foreign worlds, escaping from his daily responsibilities. He sees these dreams as a vehicle in his search for self-fulfillment and an attempt at overcoming his fear of life and love. Along the way, Peer opposes his Mother several times, choosing his fictional day-dreams over the tangible reality she presents to him, a decision he would later pay dearly for.

03 Thematic Style

With Ibsen's original text aimed at a mature audience, one of the challenges has been in streamling and adapting the storyline so that younger audiences can still follow the through-line of the play, while making the arguments and central themes comprehensible to their demographic.

Thus the central moral being explored within this production is - how does a child find the balance between having freedom in one's imagination and creativity while still obeying and following the rules. How does a child understand that a person in an authoritative position, such as a parent or guardian, is advising him for his own good and for further development, rather than a method of disciplining.

This, in essence, is what Ibsen wanted to explore through the relationship Peer Gynt has with his mother. While Peer wanted to explore the worlds through his day-dreams, his mother was always resilient in grounding him and reminding him about his responsibilities on the farm.

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04 Main Artists

The Malta Youth Orchestra

The Malta Youth Orchestra (MYO) aims to skill Malta's talented young orchestral musicians, while giving them opportunities to develop their ambition and aspirations. The MYO will return to the Manoel Theatre for this year's ŻiguŻajg performance, excited to be sharing this wonderful journey filled with beautiful music with our audiences.

Riccardo Bianchi • Conductor

Riccardo graduated in Choral and Orchestra Conducting and Philosophy. Since the last two years, Riccardo has been engaged as Malta Youth Orchestra Resident Conductor. He proudly conducted MYO many special concerts like Peter & the Wolf, Christmas Classics, Opera Villains and more. His ambitious is to try to think out of the box and combine classical music with other arts form like Visual art, contemporary dance and poetry.

Chris Dingli • Script Writer

Chris is an award-winning actor, comedian and writer. After training at Webber Douglas Academy for Dramatic Arts in London, Chris spent a decade working in the UK and Europe. During the course of his career so far he has performed in a multitude of stage shows and Shakespeare plays, directed and performed at the Edinburgh Festival, created contemporary circus shows, and acted in a multitude of film and television shows. He is well known for writing and performing in The Comedy Knights and for his one-man show, Bad Dad (touring to North America in 2018). For ZiguZajg he created Shakeshorts presents A Midsummer Night's Dream (a Premju Ghall-Arti nominee). He hosts a daily lunch time radio show on XFM.

André Agius • Director

André is a freelance Actor, Director and Lecturer based in Malta. He obtained his BA(Hons) in Theatre Studies at the University of Malta and holds a Diploma in Speech and Drama from TRINITY (UK). He has furthered his studies internationally at Rose Bruford College (UK), Odin Teatret (Denmark) and the Facing-the-Gap Youth Exchange (Budapest). André has directed 'Skylight' (MADC), 'Watts in the Dark' (Ħolqa International Festival), 'Is-Serra' (Teatru Malta), and co-directed 'Baxx Baxx' (Grokk Teatru and Teatru Manoel). André was also 'Assistant to the Artistic Director of the CHOGM 2016' and was 'Assistant Festival Coordinator' during the 2017 edition of ' ŻiguŻajg'. André is currently a lecturer at the MCAST - Insitute for the Creative Arts and at the Ġ.F. Abela Junior College.

Maria Conrad and Jose Garcia Gutierrez • Creative Consultants

Maria and Jose are both Creative Consultants as well as tutors, committed to helping in establishing the MYO within the Youth Orchestra's scene; through collaborations with renowned tutors and conductors, such as Mro Cheung from Singapore, who in September, conducted the Opening Season Concert in Valletta.

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Arts Festival for Children & Young People

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