

Press Release

Humber Theatre presents the premiere of:

Till Eulenspiegel (in the afterlife of Jerzy Kosiński)

“A novelist has a specific poetic license which also applies to his own life.”

– Jerzy Kosiński

The author of such novels as “Being There”, “Passion”, and “The Hermit of 69th Street” and “The Painted Bird”, Jerzy Kosiński was widely regarded as one of the greatest writers to emerge from the ashes of the Holocaust. Throughout his celebrated and eventful life, the Polish writer invented stories that blurred the lines between life and art.

In 1982, at the height of his fame, the literary community uncovered evidence that significant portions of his writing were, in fact, plagiarised. Several firsthand witnesses further dismissed the author’s claims that much of “The Painted Bird” was semi-autobiographical, asserting that Kosiński in fact had not endured the brutality and hardship he claimed to have suffered. In response, Kosiński countered charges of inauthenticity and ghost writing by referring to his novels as “auto-fictions”. The authorship controversy however continued to plague him until his suicide at the age of 58.

Till Eulenspiegel (in the afterlife of Jerzy Kosiński) begins at that terminal point and transports the audience into a dark and vividly realized theatrical afterlife. Guided by Till Eulenspiegel, the merry prankster figure from German folklore, the spectator is carried away on a raft of startling images, motifs and themes drawn from Kosiński’s most visceral writings. This is a world where the truth is experienced in extremis, of pain, of fear, of revenge, of pleasure, of suffering.

The production is conceived and created by the graduating Theatre Performance students with the Theatre Production students. The director is Varrick Grimes. Costume and set designs are by Joanna Yu. Laird McDonald is the Lightning designer.

Please note: This show contains scenes that some viewers may find disturbing. The story is intended for mature audiences only and is not suitable for young children.

Where: Humber Studio Theatre 300 Birmingham Street Toronto, ON

When: February 22, 23,26,27,28, March 1 and 2 @ 7pm/ Matinees: February 24th and March 2nd at 2pm.

Ticket Prices: \$5 for Alumni/\$10 for students and seniors/\$15 for adults

How to get info and tickets: Please contact: humber.theatre@humber.ca Seating is limited. Early reservations are strongly recommended.

For more information about this press release, please contact: joe.bowden@humber.ca