

stages theatre group

WALKING PATH – AUDIENCE COMMENTS

This document is a collection of AUDIENCE COMMENTS – through facebook, email and feedback at the theatre on the play WALKING PATH – for its Opening Show in Colombo, Lionel Wendt Theatre, 26TH and 27TH July 2014

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Really brilliant. LOVED it. It both transported, moved and totally engaged me. Loved the design of it – the spare white quality, and the lighting, white with harsh neon blue, or golden light of dawn. Lots to think about... the self obsession of today, the ‘me beautiful’ selfie generation, the brutality of beautification, the culture of celebrity that underpins our society now... Loved the ‘no-word’ style. For sure less is more.

Anoma Wijewardena – Artist

The commentary was very good – **Ravin**

As an actor and a performer, I found the performance really well-devised. The scenes revolving around phones were particularly strong. The ‘sex in the city’ scene was a bit vague - **Suchiththa Wickremesooriya**

Brilliant!! Bit slicker will be good. But conceptually superb - **Shanaka Amarasinghe**

Excellent performance. It was well-crafted and executed. Keep up the good and refreshing work - **S. Omar**

I thought it was brilliant. Loved how easy it was to see meaning in the play and also that different people are able to see different stories. Some scenes may have been too long though - **Haseena Razak**

I'm a 24-year-old toying with the idea of giving up my "smart" phone. Thank you for leaving me with no doubt that it must be done 😊 Incredible effort. Well done! - **Sabrina Cader**

Love the play and the fact that it was sustained on pure expressions was simply AMAZING! Truly depicts what goes on while "WALKING" - **Dimanthi Jayathilaka and Viranthi Kumarage**

Try to include how the walking paths are being also used for the wedding photography 😊 Some scenes could be trimmed down. Overall good job!! - **Saroopa**

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Very strong acting. Nice use of humour. I understood the powerful meaning at the end. Good to shock us after monotony of white-washing. I am confused about the lower class working character. Was he the resister? What was he invested in? I wanted more of an emotional journey throughout, but I understand that white-washing is devoid of emotion intentionally. Good use of silence, music, and grrrr - **Varuni Tiruchelvam**

It was good.... Some bits were too open, I wasn't sure how to interpret it! – **Kaushalya**

Refreshing and awesome. Best wishes for many more wonderful productions! – **Pabalu**

Really enjoyed it. Wasn't what I was expecting. Makes one really think 😊 - **Naomi**

Very good observation of the crazy walkers in Colombo - **Annie Nathaniels**

Excellent! Enjoyed every bit! ☺ - **Thulasi**

Excellent! Congrats! Great going Jayampathi!! Super cast and sleek performance. Loved the Lion and the 'battery babies' segment. Ruwanthie please have rehearsals after working hours!! ☺ - **Imani**

Awesome piece of art. *No words*. What should be addressed was addressed. Even in drama, finally something is done. Good luck for more awesome work! - **Dayesha Abhayasundara**

A complete drama. No words to say!! Keep up the good work. NOTE! For now, this would be admired by the urban audience. Yet, it'll kick on!! Best of luck! ☺ - **Mayukha Abeyratne**

Absolutely brilliant performance from all! Loved the use of light & stage changes. Please do inform of any future productions!!! - **Lihan Mendis**

Great performance except little too abstract at times. Didn't see anything about this online. Publicize better! Good job! – **Shanika Perera**

I must say it is an unusual theatre experience for me and you & your stages theatre group have expressed well the concept and users expressions. One of the weaknesses I saw was restricting experiences only to "YOUTH". I think the Walking Paths are used by all age groups.

Good luck! – **Dayananda Gunawardena**

Loved it! Great work JAM!!! Was even better than I expected it. Just super!! – **Sheni**

So the opening and the ending was superb. And lighting was sharp, it really made the play unique. But half way through the play I felt like it was a teledrama. first few acts were awesome and sort of making us uncomfortable nicely. but then It was like a report of things happened. Drama was missing towards the end. It was not boring in traditional sense. It was boring in some other way. I dunno. But the last few scenes were just pure awesome. But the build up to that scenes were not strong as the scenes itself. And

pauses between the acts were tight. It was OK in the first half, by towards end I felt like rushing thru to show as many as things within the time frame. I didn't get time to grasp it. And I don't know why it had no words. Cuz there were moments I thought it needed words. Maybe it's a decision you took at the beginning of the production. You used noise really nicely. But I think you could have done much more with noises, not music, but some noises. So this is what my friends had to say :) But one thing we will all come for the next play too. Cheers – **Pathum Egodawatta**

Very strong ensemble work! Performers were very rich, nuanced and present. Important work. Loved that there were no words. And the interrogation of beautification/gentrification/and “public space” for the elite. The performance and character who was beaten at the end was very compelling. My interpretation was this character, though in short sleeves and was participating in the space, was also marginalized of a less-privileged position of the other short sleeves. While he also hung out in the space, he was also a part of cleaning the space and in the border of those with short and long sleeves. He didn't have the sexual freedom of the short sleeves. I'm curious however about the choices of his partner of the sock puppet in the relationships and the blue film in the phone. I'm guessing the intention may have been to point to the contradiction of the “sexually?” And perhaps to point to the lack of access of the working class person to sexual expression in a public space? It landed strange for me however. It felt like it re-marginalized the sexual desire of those who lack as much access to the public space. I loved however the moment in ‘sex in the city’ when he was cleaning while others exercised their erotic. Other favourite moments were the opening – which was particularly poignant for me as I just came from Vavuniya and Jaffna. The hurrah, the gun shots/fire crackers/balloons/celebrations/photos was a powerful critique that I deeply appreciated. The ending with the balloon popping deaths of those who came to help the beaten man + the complacent witnesses and camera phone was great. I felt that the ‘me and my phone’, ‘my selfie with my friends’ and ‘the world in my phone’ was a little repetitive thematically – though the performances were great. I felt that some of those moments could have been collapsed. Overall great work. I loved how present the actors were. With love and wishes for y'all's continued growth and success, Xoxo – **Yalini Dream**

Congratulations to the cast & crew of Walking Path on a refreshing & thought-provoking performance this evening! With no spoken words and only sound and movement, it was a play which demanded attention from the beginning to understand the unfolding events. From rigorous exercise, new-found friendships and blossoming romances to our modern society's obsession with smart-phones and selfies, the play captured the imagination of this audience member, but at times also left him a bit puzzled, trying to comprehend some scenes. Despite that, it was undoubtedly one of the most interesting

and innovative plays so far this year which brought back memories of 'Knotted Ropes' from last year's Colombo International Theatre Festival. The main cast of 7 was well supported by the 19 others to make a memorable production. Well done, Stages

Theatre Group! – **Drama Sri Lanka**

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1527974200764866&set=gm.10152416172288409&type=1&theater>

Amazing performance....loved it.....Well done Jayampathi Guruge – **Shenali Williams Rajkumar**