

By Harvey D'Souza

(The 'It is Forbidden' poem is a rough translation of 'Queda Prohibido', and was given to me by one of my Spanish students in England. Its origin is unclear: some credit it to Pablo Neruda whilst other internet sources attribute the poem to Alfredo Cuervo Barrero.)

Scene 1. Dance

Music (Jungle Rumba). Four actors experiment with vigorous movement.

The group moves close to one another. Stirring, exploring, scared, reaching but not finding.

Move around as a group, feel the wall.

Crawl back to each other. Close in.

Scene 2. Dialogue

Speaker 1: Go on. Keep staring. Look at us. What do I care?

Speaker 2: Go on. Keep laughing. We'll entertain you.

Speaker 3: Go away. Keep your distance. What do we care.

Speaker 4: No. Don't go away. Don't keep your distance. Stay with us.

Scene 3. Dance.

Music (Machine of War)

Trapped. Scared. Angry. Desperate. Violent.

Break apart. Try to flee.

Scene 4. Dialogue

(Dancers are tired, weary and exhausted)

The dancer:

What do I care.
I'm a dancer.
I live to dance.
I dance to live.
Sometimes the music is too loud.
Sometimes I barely hear it.
Sometimes the stage is empty.
And I must dance alone.
Dance alone.
Alone.

The fighter:

What do I care.
I'm a fighter.
I must win.
If only I could see my enemy.
I'm a winner.
But sometimes I feel.
I'm a winner trying hard to lose.

Trying hard to
The dreamer:
What do I care.
I'm a dreamer.
I live in another world.
Oh no. It's not the internet.
It's not Facebook.
Or Twitter.
It's another world.
Better than this one.
Here -some people never live.
There- some people never die.

The singer:
What do I care.
I'm a singer.
They call me Cacophonix.
I can prove it.
I don't care.
I sing to myself.
I sing for myself.
And to the trees.
And the stars.

Scene 5. Music & Dialogue

Group finds themselves tied in a knot. Slowly they untie themselves. Make a statue.

Speaker 1: It is forbidden to cry without learning,
to get up one day without knowing what to do,
to be afraid of your memories...

Speaker 2: It is forbidden not to smile at problems,
not to fight for what you want,
to leave everything for fear,
not to make your dreams come true...

Speaker 3 : It is forbidden not to create your story,
not to have time for those who need you,
not to understand that what life gives you,
also what it takes away from you...

Speaker 4: It is forbidden not to look for your happiness,
not to live your life positively,
not to think that we can be better,
not to think that without you,
this world wouldn't be the same...