

Shakespeare is known all over the world as one of the greatest writers in the English language and belongs to some of the worlds greatest dramatists.

His plays are filled with explosive themes such as jealousy, romance , murder and intrigues and even are today chosen by many directors for a modern production because of its timelessness.

The drama „Othello“ for example deals with topics which are also playing a big role in today’s every day life: Othello, a black General of Venice, secretly marries a white girl named Desdemona. Her father does not agree with their relationship and wants her to choose a side. She decides to go to Cyprus with her new husband and leaves her father.

Iago, who feels run over by Othello when choosing his new lieutenant, manipulates Othello in thinking his wife would be cheating on him with Michael Cassio, his lieutenant of trust.

During the play Othello’s character begins to change and he becomes a mistrustful and paranoid husband.

In the end he decides, manipulated by Iago, to kill his wife.

The Schauspielhaus Darmstadt also chose to interpret Othello in a new way, but even though the play was modernized, the original history as it was written by William Shakespeare in 1604 hasn’t been changed very much. Everyone who read the book knew exactly what was going on and could easily follow the play. They also had the chance to make up their minds about the modern techniques the director integrated in his new performance.

Many people have been criticizing the interpretation of Schauspielhaus Darmstadt because some scenes were filled with little surprises: A dancing hat, a big swimming pool and a little bit of strip chess may caused some confusion, but every short, modern change made the three hours play more spicy and exciting because if you’re honest: Everyone remembers the moment they were screaming: „Desdi!“, „Otti!“.

All in all it was a good mixture of modernization and classical play, a bit less swear words and a bit more everyday language and I could see myself recommending the performance to other Othello interested people.