

## *A Journey to Australia, by Dario Costa*

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Oftentimes, traditional history classes can be boring because history is to be lived and not only told. This is exactly what was offered on Friday, January 19th by Dario Costa, an actor from the Drama Ties Company, to several students from Descartes High. His one-man show, "A Journey to Australia," made a vivid portrayal of his native country's history from the 18th century to nowadays.

For starters, the play was organized as a 4 part picture. What the actor himself called the first story was that of Australia's discovery, and the first settlement by white men on this wild land overflowing with new species that the English naturalist was only too eager to name. The first part also went over the clash between the settlers and the Aborigines who occupied the land long before. Then came the second story which followed an English convict named Alexander Pearce as he was sentenced to a decade's work on an island near Australia, from which he then managed to escape. The least that can be said is that his adventures were painful tales for sensible ears! In the third story, an Italian immigrant named Giuseppe went to live in Australia in exchange for a salary given to him by the government. As for the fourth story, it was actually one inside another since it made a road train driver named Mad Dan's dream known to us; the main character of that daydream being an explorer who deemed traveling the Australian desert to be a good idea.

All of this was told in such a manner as to never lack to entertain the public. By using original noises, mime usage, facial expressions and perfect characterization, this show relied heavily on people's imagination which made it even harder for Dario to perform. There were indeed no costumes and very few props, except for a balloon and some background music which included a traditional Aboriginal instrument called the didgeridoo.

To put it in a nutshell, if I were to grade the play I saw, I would go as far as to bestow it a 3.5 out of 5 stars. In one word: very relevant content, great staging and presence from a talented actor who has a delightful sense of humor, but could have used some more props and a little visual support to enhance a successful project. Also, the level of English was adapted for high school students. Highly recommended!

By Pacôme, Denis, Margaux and Gabrielle, 1ère euro

