

imaginary friends

A new play by Deirdre Burton and Tom Davis
for
Somesuch Theatre Company
www.somesuchtheatre.com

our actors:

Angie Barnbrook
Geoff Barnbrook
Jane Brown
Edmund Caird
Ramesh Krishnamurthy
Becky Sexton

also:

integral music devised by the Company
interval songs by Pete Readman and Deirdre Burton

love and thanks to:

Angela Matheson for her skilful tuition in Italian and
her insights into Petrarch
Rob Argent for his thoughtful technical support

thunder: perfect mind:

This is a poem, written some time in the 2nd century
of the current era. It is about gnosis: the direct experience
of the divine. Which is said to be sudden and overwhelming,
like a clap of thunder, and to produce a mental state that is
completely purified: perfect.

In that state, binary opposites are reconciled, and paradox
is the new normality. The Gnostic religion sought to induce
gnosis, perhaps using paradox as Zen Buddhism does, to
induce the very equivalent state known as satori. The poem
seems to be part of such a ritual.

The speaker in the poem is God. She is female.

In European literature, in Plato, Petrarch, Dante, and many
others, romantic love is described as a way of attaining gnosis.

That is what our play is about. It's a comedy (well, mostly).

in other words:

Look at love...
how it tangles
the lover and the beloved
look at spirit
how it fuses with earth
giving it new life

why are you so busy
with this or that or good or bad?
pay attention to how things blend

the beloved grows
right out of my own heart
how much more union can there be?

Rumi (Sufi poet, 13c)

thunder: perfect mind

I am the first and the last.
I am the honoured and the scorned,
I am the harlot and the holy one.
I am the wife and the virgin.
I am the mother and the daughter.
I am the body of my mother.

I am the bride and the bridegroom.
It is my husband who gave birth to me.
I am the mother of my father and the sister of my husband.
And he is my child.
I am the servant of him who prepared me and
I am the lord of my offspring.

I am the incomprehensible silence
and the much-remembered thought.
I am the voice of many sounds
and the utterance of many forms.
I am the utterance of my name.

I am knowledge and ignorance.
I am shame and boldness.
I am unashamed, I am ashamed.
I am strength and I am fear.
I am war and peace.

Give heed to me.
I am the disgraced and the exalted one.

Give heed to my poverty and my wealth.
Do not be haughty to me when I am discarded upon the earth.

And you will find me among those that are to come.

I am knowledge and ignorance.
I am shame and boldness.
I am unashamed, I am ashamed.
I am strength and I am fear.
I am war and peace.
I am foolish and I am wise.

I am she who has been hated everywhere
and she who has been loved everywhere.

I am she who is called Life and you have called Death.
I am she who is called Law and you have called Lawlessness.

And the power of the powers by my gnosis
of the angels who have been sent by my logos,
and the gods in their seasons by my command,
and it is with me that the spirits of all humans exist,
and it is within me that women exist.

For I am the one who alone exists,
and I have no one who will judge me.

paradox is the new normality

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