

Theaterbesuch der Oberstufe: Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter



Am 17. März 2019 besuchten wieder zahlreiche Schülerinnen und Schüler der Q11 und Q12 des Lessing-Gymnasiums das Gastspiel der American Drama Group Europe im Theater Ulm. Aufgeführt wurde der amerikanische Südstaatenthriller "Crooked letter, crooked letter" von Tom Franklin. In dem Stück geht es um Themen wie Rassen- und Geschlechterunterschiede, menschliche Zwänge und Abgründe sowie stereotypische Verhaltensweisen und Konventionen und das Bedürfnis vieler Menschen, auf Verbrechen und Gewalttaten stets nach Sündenböcken und schnellen Lösungen, anstatt nach der Wahrheit zu suchen.

Wie immer machte die Fachschaft Englisch daraus einen vergnüglichen Theaterabend und viele Schülerinnen und Schüler kamen in Abendgarderobe und stießen mit ihren begleitenden Lehrern auf einen gelungenen Theaterabend an.

Die Schülerin Sarah Welte machte sich im Nachgang noch einige Gedanken zum Stück und verfasste folgende Rezension auf Englisch:

"Crooked letter, crooked letter" – a review on Franklin's play by Sarah Welte Q11

On 17th March 2019, many students of year 11 and 12 went to the theatre in Ulm together with their English teachers to watch the American play "Crooked letter, crooked letter" by Tom Franklin.

The story is set in rural Mississippi in the late 1970s and is about Silas Jones, a black boy who moved from Chicago to Chabot, Mississippi and Larry Ott, who has lived there his whole life. The two boys become close friends although they live in different worlds and their parents don't want them to spend time together. Larry is the child of lower-middle-class white parents, and Silas is the son of a poor, single black mother. Their friendship starts to fall apart when Larry is said to be the murderer of Cindy Walker, who disappears during a date with him. The incident shook the county and Silas most of all. His friendship with Larry was broken, and Silas left town. More than twenty years have passed and when another girl, called Tina, disappears, "Scary Larry" is again suspected to have murdered her. His only remaining friend is Wallace. When Larry gets shot down and almost dies, Silas who is now a police officer investigates the case and finds out that Wallace was the real murderer of the two girls and Larry has been innocent. Moreover, the reason why Silas and Larry weren't supposed to play together as kids was that Larry's dad was also Silas's dad and their parents tried to hide the secret from them that they are half-brothers. Back then, it was indecent for a black woman to have an illegitimate baby with a white person.

The play is about various topics like friendship and racism which play an important role in our daily lives and society. In my opinion, the play was really good because it highlighted these topics as being relevant and important in the 1970s when the first part of the story took place, just as much as they are today. Especially the racism that Silas and his mother had to face was very impressively shown in the play and made the viewer think about the way the white population treats black people. But then again topics like friendships, growing up and the search for truth were issues we could also relate to as young students. To put it in a nutshell, it was a very interesting and enjoyable evening for all of us.