

Theatreworks
Presents

Desdemona

by

Rio Kishida

(text as performed in Singapore for the
Singapore Arts Festival, 2nd – 5th June 2000)

Prologue – Anamorphic Image

Desdemona: Silence floating in the sea
 My words
 Dewdrops forming on blades of grass
 My tears
 Echoes reverberating through the hills
 My grief
 Deep red river
 My blood
 Flames shimmering in the sunlight
 My shadow
 Before long the sun will set
 And the biting winds will blow
 The sky is shutting its lid
 I am alone inside
 Othello, I hate you.

as of 8 June, 2000 Version 1

Desdemona

Scene 1 – Maya – Old Man, Lice

as of 8 June 2000 Version 1

Scene 2

Othello: Tat swapnam nah aaseet, hata cha me jayaaa mayaaa.
(It was not a dream. I have killed my wife.)
Saacha me garbha dhatree dasika.
(But she was only a slave who was to bear my child.)
Pitrra pratyarpiteyam. Samanamukhamupathena ya tathalabdha preethya
putrayadeya pithrumidhikara neshwathakalayapuruam.
(I was given this key when my father was about to die.
My father was given this key when my father's father was about to die.
Eventually I will give this key to my son when I die. I do not have a son yet.)
Nruvaravarakulasyanchitha kunjikeyam.
(This is the key to my kingdom.)
Putrathu henena dathum kadhamithi manasa.
(I want a son to whom I can give this key to.)
Putravitharthiyaham bho, putravitharthiyaham bho.
(I want a son, I want a son.)

Scene 3

Desdemona: This country was once free. Before Othello's father's father invaded it, we used to have names. But now, we are only called by numbers. I am going to tell you a secret. My mother gave me a name. My name is Desdemona. I will give you a name. Your name is Sword...
My sword, on a stormy, windy night your heart is a site of agony, with desires swirling. I desire to drink the poisonous saliva flowing from your
- lips.

Scene 4A - DELETED

Scene 4B

Desdemona: New moon, petals in the wind, salmon eggs.
 Mother when I remember you, I become Desdemona.
 When the wind whispers, my memories return.
 Mother, the things you taught me, return.
 New moon, petals in the wind, salmon eggs.
 I will not forget you mother, as you could not forget your mother.

Scene 4C

Othello: Mayi cha mathusmaranyva nasthi.
 (I do not have memories of my mother.)
 Mathamahopi.
 (I do not have memories of my mother's mother.)
 Kimihamabilashamiva.
 (I do not know whether I desire these memories.)
 Na jane.
 (I do not know.)

Scene 5A

Kee Hong: Scene 5A. Miroto removes mask and begins upstage center.
Miroto: Aku abdiné Othello.
Kee Hong: I am Othello's slave.
Miroto: Bapakku lan embahku uga abdi.
Kee Hong: My father and my father's father were also slaves.
Miroto: Rikala keng ramané bapaké Othello, nguwasani negara iki.
Kee Hong: When Othello's father's father invaded this country...
Miroto: - Embahku wis nglawan nganti tumekaning pati
Kee Hong: My father's father had resisted until the last moment.
Miroto: Wis makaping-kaping brantayuda.
Kee Hong: In our history of bloodshed,
Miroto: Ananging durung ana, kang bisa ngasoraké Othello.
Kee Hong: nobody has overthrown Othello....

Scene 5B

Desdemona: Othello, the words that you speak are always orders. And there is no one who can disobey your orders. I am not allowed to have words with you. I am a mute. In the depth of night, when despair is boiled down into the earth, I think of having a conversation with you. I desire a conversation, a conversation....

Scene 5C – Video Interview & Writing

Scene 6A – Maya Bow & Arrow

Maya: Get me the key to my kingdom.
 My father... my father's father... my son.

Scene 6B

Othello: Kadachithu kohamithi mayapi na vedyathe.
 (Sometimes I do not know who I am and what I am.)
 Aham Othello.
 (I am Othello.)
 Janakopi Othello.
 (My father was also Othello.)
 Pithamahopi Othello.
 (My father's father was also Othello.)
 Putrapyevam Othello bhavishyathi.
 (In time, my son will also be called Othello.)
 Mama sathwam sathyam kim? Na vedmi.
 (Do I exist? I do not know.)

Scene 7 – Mona's Diet

Mona's Diet on A&B. Yellow Balls on C&D when orange appears.

Tai chi starts when feet appear on Mona's Diet.

Scene 8

Desdemona: I will not curse my fate.
 - I will challenge my destiny.
 I will call out to the centre of my body.
 Do not be afraid of destruction.
 Do not be afraid of revenge.
 Do not be afraid of agony.
 Do not be afraid of betrayal.
 Do not be afraid of self-annihilation.
 Magma is boiling in the depths of my body.
 Erupting.
 God of fire,
 If you are to reproach me for my deeds,
 Why not create rains of fire to burn my body?
 When your fiery rains and my magma collide,
 My fire will emerge the winner.

Scene 9 Matthew, Claire, Kee Hong

Kee Hong's typing appears on D.

Matthews enters and crosses stage to get Jang.

Scene 10 – Pan Suri

- Desdemona: Oumouni, dangshinun jege najumaghan moksoriro yiroutut
malsumhashyouso.
(Mother, you said in a quiet voice)
- Mother: Nae yije doragarira.
(I am going to die soon.)
- Desdemona: Woumouni dangshinun wouyibwado joogumul ape doon saramuro an
boyouso. Houna, dashi malhashyouso.
(You didn't look at all like a person who was about to die. But you said
again.)
- Mother: Nae yije kod dorargarira.
(I am going to die soon.)
- Desdemona: Kutaeyou, oumouninun noonul kugae tushyuso. Kaman nundongha,
Kinakin soknunsube, Nundongja kipun soge nae mosubul bowatdawo.
(Then you opened your eyes wide. Quiet black irises, long eyelashes. I
could see my reflection deep inside your pupils)
- Mother: Tara, nae tara, goukjoungul marara. Joogumul dooryouwou mara. Nega
joogul taemyun, jinjunguro naega ne myobirul sewou juma.
(Daughter, my daughter, death is nothing to be scared of. When you die, I
will descend to mark your grave.)
- Desdemona: Oumouni, oumuninun chunchunhi gurigo joyonghi doragaso.
oumounichouroum jookgo shipso.
(Mother, you died gently and quietly. I want to die like you.)

Mother: Noudo yije god joogulgeda.
 (You will die soon.)

Desdemona: I am going to die soon. My sword, I desire to drink the poisonous saliva
 flowing from your lips.

Scene 11 – Matthew’s Identity Kit and Video Writing

Video Writing on A, B & C; Kee Hong typing on D.

Each Screen shifts to Matthew’s identity kit.

Scene ends when Matthew zooms in on his hand.

Scene 12A - Murder

Madhu enters USL.

- Othello: (Love Sound, Valour Sound)
- Desdemona: The sun is descending in the western sky, about to touch the horizon with its lips.
- Othello: (Wonder Sound) Aye kaschana bhimakara matsyandakosa ayathi.
(Fear Sound)
(A gigantic salmon roe is approaching.)
- Desdemona: I linger in the sunlight, dyed in the colour of blood.
- Othello: (Sadness Sound)
- Desdemona: I stare into the depths of my decision.
- Othello: Ayamandakosa mam math kim? Mathamahi Kim?
(Could that be my mother? Could that be my mother's mother?)
- Desdemona: The leaves of the trees are glittering, flowing like music.
- Othello: (Laughter Sound)
- Desdemona: I imagine myself stabbed by your sword.
- Othello: (Disgust Sound) Apasara, akshilaksheekrithathu duram bhaja.
(Go away, get out of my sight.)
- Desdemona: My body becomes hot, drunk and filled.
- Othello: Nechhami twam.
(I do not need you.)
- Othello: Bhavathyam aham na thishtami
(In you, I do not exist.)

He kills her.

Scene 12B – Carnival of Death

Maya: Sometimes in my dreams I feel her fragrance accumulating within me.

Maya: Echoes reverberating in the hills...

Maya: Dewdrops forming on blades of grass.

Scene 13 – Water

Miroto: Surem-surem dewangkara kingkin
(Sad and gloomy is the sun)
Lir manguswa kang layon
(to see the dead body.)
Oooo.....
Denya ilang kang memanise
(Beauty gone)
Wadamira layu
(Face shrunken)
Kumel kucem rahnya maratani
(Soaked in blood.)
Oooo....

Kee Hong: When I enter the world of sleep, I find myself beside a lake. I look at the surface of the lake. My face changes into her face. Her face changes into his face. My face is mixed with her face. The magic of water. I enter the lake. The water is warm. It wraps around my body. It is like the fluid in a woman's womb. I become a foetus again. Half of me is her, half of me is him. I exist within the two of them.

Jang : nae woulgool. guye woulgool. gunyouye woulgool.
(my face, his face, her face)
gu dool sayiye naega jonjaehane.
(I exist between the two of them)

Scene 14 – Mona at Immigration

Scene 15A – Maya in Bedchamber

Scene 15B – Madhu & (later) Maya in Bedchamber

Othello : Tat swapnam nah aaseet, hata cha me jayaaa mayaaa.
(It was not a dream. I have killed my wife.)

Othello battles the demon. Maya enters as the demon from behind gold box, takes away poison and holds Othello.

Scene 16 - Ghost

Kee Hong and Claire enter

Jang: (sings) Chosaengdal, baram hutnalinum konnip, younou al...
(New Moon, petals flowing in the wind, salmon eggs...)

Scene 17 – Golden Kiss

Mioto Enters

Kiss

Desdemona: Shore of darkness
 Skeleton window
 Shadow of fear
 Twilight of winter
 Withered penis
 Nightmare dreams
 Soulless prison

Kee Hong: Things that are too beautiful bite off people's hearts and implode.
 Erupting, transforming, flowing; flowing out as blood, as sweat, as tears.

Mioto: Sing katon endah ngramipas atine wong lan mroncal-mroucal.
 Mbludale, malih, mili: Mblabar dadi getih lah luh.

Puppet Animation

