

Bear-Men Review

Xi Xi Ming Pao Daily

The cast isn't divided into protagonists or side characters throughout the play. Every actor is a protagonist; each of them exhibits their own talent. Each character shares significant weight in the play and bears a good amount of scars, which are manifested in different performing forms, from acting, narration to singing – different Chinese opera songs and folk songs accompanied by various musical instruments.

Why monologue? Haven't we been asking for the accommodation of different voices and polyphony? Yet, this is a group of injured bears and indeed their wounds have to be healed by themselves. You must face yourself alone, especially your own past. Monologue is a dialogue with yourself, enabling the present to connect with the past and letting the two time zones negotiate. Some of the dialogues are actually monologues, only receptive to the speaker's own voice. Why chorus? It is harmony in difference. It collectively conveys everyone's hope for the future. This echoes the ancient Greek theatre.