

Review of *Kafka's Ape* in Tokyo from Osamu Imamura (Facebook April 12)

English Translation from Japanese

One night yesterday, Infini Theater "Kafka's 'Ape'" (arranged and directed = Gee Sprang) @ Theater X in Canada. Infini Theater is an English-language theater company based in Montreal, and according to the flyers, it operates with the conviction that "theatre must be a collective experience reflecting serious social and political issues as well as entertainment." Well, it's a stage where the aspiration is transmitted.

The original is F. Kafka's palm tale "A certain academic report." It is a story that monkeys who have been "transited" to people and who are now popular in the theater, will report to the academic society about the circumstances, especially the fact that they were monkeys. An outer frame was provided. The African-captured monkey, Red Peter (Howard Rosenstein), received military training from the United States military adviser, Gray Water, and made numerous efforts to become a key figure in the company. Of course, I was also able to wear alcohol and tobacco as human beings. It is a satirical trick that Peter announces his position at the General Meeting of Gray Water.

Companies that try to turn monkeys into soldiers on behalf of people for cost reductions, and the arrogance of humans themselves. Accepting it, abandoning the true self, Peter proud of having become a wolf. And those shareholders who don't appear listening to such a petty story, perhaps to see a show. Here, modern themes such as corporate impersonality, identity, pride, discrimination, etc. that are not stopped in pursuit of economic efficiency are included.

And above all else, it is worth mentioning that Rosen Stain's marvelous ape-salvai. Peter, who looks like a chimpanzee-human hybrid with unique makeup and gloves, shrugs off the wine and suddenly screams out wild male screams, torture and run around the audience, thinking he was calmly and passionately talking . I can not miss my eyes even for a moment because of the terrible appearance. It is difficult to accurately express the quality of this, regardless of how much words are spent. A place like saying that it is a matter of fact. And there is a sorrow that I can not say in the back when leaving the platform. Peter's success as a human being, but negative emotions that could not be organized by himself, were clearly marked there.

The audience was given a pamphlet at the entrance, and an outline of Peter's speech was written in advance. However, it's hard for English to be inconvenient (and it's a very easy-to-use monkey-like English) to follow the stage just by reading it. If you think that there are probably many interesting stories and pranks that are not written in the

brochure, and various tricks, you can not help but regret it. However, if you have subtitles, your eyes will be away from that marvelous act. That's too bad. If at least you are selling a translation of the play, you can retroactively refute the attraction of the stage again and again. I left the theater with my heart in mind.

Even so, it is astounding that this stage, which has changed the concept of the word "monkey play" in one's hand in a copernical manner, can be seen for 1000 yen. Only 2 o'clock in the afternoon of today (12th) and 13th is left, but it is recommended. (Titles omitted)