



AI 愛. 能 MAY KEY ASPECTS REFERENCE SHEET

Intergenerational conflict

How do generational differences shape our desires wants and needs? Based on UK and US statistics, family estrangement is becoming globally common. 1 in 4 Americans are estranged from at least one family member and 1 in 5 British families experience estrangement. Students can also discuss the reasons behind intergenerational trauma and some ways to foster better parent-child communication.

Migrant storytelling

AI May can serve as a great inspiration point for any students learning how to tell culturally and linguistically diverse stories to an Australian audience.

Cultural learning

With the inclusion of Mandarin and peppered references to Asian culture, AI May can be a wonderful avenue for introducing students to migrant accents and traditions.

Language learning

For any students also studying Mandarin in school the inclusion of live surtitles integrated into the scene can be a great way to test how much language they have learnt recently. Similarly for any ESL (English as a second language) students or international students from Taiwan, Hong Kong etc., this is a great way to test their English comprehension skills with the dual language surtitles.

Access in the arts

Students and teachers can reflect on AI May as a means of learning more about ways to incorporate minority communities into your show's accessibility. Such as the hard of hearing, linguistically diverse, wheelchair users and more.

The intersection of technology and theatre

AI May embraces the changes technology is bringing to our industry and finds ways to utilise this to our benefit in our set and sound design. Students and teachers can enjoy conversations about how technology was utilised as a mechanism of theatre and as a key theme of the text.

Grief

AI May tackles a heavy topic with humour, heart and solemnity at various points in the show. Students can discuss how various directional and textual choices make a hard topic digestible for an audience.

Mother-daughter relationships

With an audience of 15+, we are watching a story about a young woman not too far in age from the students themselves, this opens up discussions of how AI May might reflect students' experiences with parents in a difficult age with a strong technological divide. Teachers can utilise the outing as a provocation for students to write about their own parent-child relationships with a focus on perspective.

Genre

AI May creates a futuristic world without the bells and whistles of film editing, a rare and perhaps even unseen occurrence in the Australian Theatre industry. Students can discuss what genre the piece sits in, if it crosses genre and how to create a strong suspension of disbelief in the intimate setting of a theatre.



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Why Bring Your Students:

- **Cultural Immersion:** AI MAY provides a unique opportunity for students to engage with contemporary Asian culture and the migrant experience in a way that is both entertaining and educational. The play presents an authentic depiction of cultural norms and challenges, making it a valuable resource for discussions on cultural identity and heritage.
- **Language Learning:** The bilingual nature of the play allows students to see Mandarin and English used in context, which can reinforce their language learning. The use of subtitles further supports comprehension and offers a chance for students to observe language in action within a rich, narrative framework.
- **Critical Thinking and Discussion:** The themes explored in AI MAY—from cultural expectations to the complexities of relationships—are ideal for fostering critical thinking and meaningful classroom discussions. Students can analyze the characters' choices, the impact of cultural values, and the broader social issues presented in the play.
- **Accessibility:** The play's inclusion of both Traditional Mandarin and English subtitles ensures that all students, regardless of their language proficiency, can fully engage with the content. This makes AI MAY an inclusive experience, where every student can appreciate the story and its themes.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

The team at AI MAY is happy to offer our help to your students in anyway we can. If you would like to request a cast and creative Q and A after the show please email robot@aimay.org (subject to cast and crew availability).

For all other AI MAY content and creative inquiries please email:

amychienyuwang@gmail.com to reach out to Embodi Founder, playwright and director Amy.

or

strubehelen@gmail.com to contact dramaturg Helen Strube.