

A group of young actors recently premiered the show "My First" in Gaflaraleikhúsið. The director is Björk Jakobsdóttir, who has been working rigorously these past years to make Gaflaraleikhúsið the premiere youth theatre in Iceland.

The group she chose to make the theatres youth show with this year consists of 5 people all 19-20 years old, Arnóri Björnsson, Berglind Alda Ástþórsdóttir, Inga Steinunn Henningsdóttir, Mikael Emil Kaaber og Óli Gunnar Gunnarsson. The show tackles all of our first times, like the name would suggest, whether that is the first love, the first kiss, the first time you have sex, the first heartbreak or the first time you fart in the presence of your significant other, and how perfect or imperfect these moments can be.

The play is uniquely sincere and heartwarming, and the cast does an amazing job of portraying, well, themselves. They use their own names, and their own stories mixed in with stories from their friends, and in doing so they manage to create a unique bond with the audience who are pulled into the world of the play. It is easy to relate to the awkwardness and anxiety of doing something for the first time, that everything will be up to standard and like some romantic Hollywood film. The play tackles serious issues with humor, and funny things with seriousness, and I fully admit to having both laughed and cried, sometimes at the same time, at the actors honest and sincere portrayal. There are music numbers, a dance, a tennis match and extremely clever and original metaphors for those "firsts that shall not be named".

It is also worth mentioning and praising the show for its mindful and effortless representation of every type of relationship, not just the typical heterosexual teenage couple, so I can easily say that every audience member related to the show in one way or another. Current, ex or future teenagers should all be able to see themselves in the characters, how awkward it can be going on a first date, how sexual education is nearly non existent and that your first kiss could be such an anti-climax that the words "this is overrated" just slip out of your mouth. On a whole this show is heartfelt, hilarious, emotional and honest, and the actors do fantastically well with the difficult task of talking about their first times on stage in front of 200 people (and even their in-laws). I don't even have to hesitate in giving this show 5 stars, and I encourage everyone to go see it as soon as possible. Everyone can learn something, cry with laughter or laugh through tears. It will be exciting to watch the actors blossom in the future, I'm sure audiences will most likely see more of them in time to come.

"Well, this is overrated". Karitas M. Bjarkadóttir. University newspaper.