



### **"The Beauty in Her Cage: "A Reaction to the Play"**

"The Beauty in Her Cage" is a captivating Argentine play by Rubén Mosquera that portrays the life and experience of Felicitas Guerrero, who is a renowned first case of femicide in Argentina in 1872, that explores the lives of women in mesogenic societies. The narrative revolves around the tapestry of individual autonomy and societal expectations. The events in the play revolve around Zoe Bertona and Natalia Vacis, whose lives become a metaphorical cage that symbolizes the restrictive norms and conventions that confine them. The production invites the audience to reflect on the role of imposed socially constructed standards in limiting the pursuit of personal fulfillment. The play uses literal techniques to

prompt the audience on themes of agency, identity, and social pressure and assess the balance between conformity and the pursuit of one's true self.

The strength of the play is its ability to use allegory and symbolism to convey universal truth about the human experience (Mosquera 2023). The metaphor of the cage is a symbolic representation of myriad situations in which individuals are constrained by societal expectations, cultural constraints, and gender norms to fulfill their heart's desires. This production is a nuanced exploration of themes that add depth to the narrative and resonate with audiences who recognize elements of their struggle for self-expression and autonomy. The beauty in her cage engages the spectators to introspect their cages and contemplate their pursuit of liberation.

Moreover, the setting of the play adds a distinctive cultural flavor to the exploration of universal themes. This tapestry of Argentinian society and tradition is a backdrop for the depth and complexity of the narrative. *Beauty and the Cage* is not a personal story but a reflection of the broader cultural and societal dynamics. The interplay between individual and collective contributes to the play, making it a thought-provoking and emotionally charged theatrical experience that transcends cultural boundaries.

#### Work Cited

Rubén Mosquera. "The Beauty in her Cage." Directed by Rubén Mosquera, performed by Zoe Bertona and Natalia Vacis, [Morgan State University], [Mary Baltimore County], [2023].