Rescue this torn umbrella

*Junk Clown*, a Korean play for children, brings the concept of recycling to the table through mime

It was only in 2017, that the play came to its current moniker. Using techniques of pantomime, the narrative urges one to become environmentally conscious in a pandemic world.

Discarded junk become characters. “In this era of overconsumption, where production is far beyond demand, I came to think that even human imagination is closed, and it is not toys with specific shapes that stimulate children’s creativity and imagination, but things that are abandoned in life,” says director Ko Jae-Kyung.

The narrative carries on without a single word uttered. The director, who was a mime artiste himself, believes that the dramatic illusion of the play is best portrayed through mime. And, hence the cast is identified as clowns. “‘Clowns’ are familiar to the audience. Audiences willingly lower their guard and easily engage with them,” he says.

The inception point of *Junk Clown* was in fact, junk, says Jae-Kung. “When we first produced this play, the actors visited a real junk shop. I came up with the idea of a scene there.”

All the pranks in the show are modelled after the various games that adults played during their childhood.

The play was filmed with nine high-end cameras at Seoul Arts Centre and is currently being screened at 34 domestic and international venues.

*Junk Clown* will be available to stream from July 16 at inkocentre.org

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Broken barrels, bent pans and torn umbrellas are strewn across the stage: things that embody everyday life. Among them, clowns frolic. Pranks and games are afoot as they prance about playing with anything in sight.

*Junk Clown*, a Korean theatre production for children by Hyunjang Theater Company, is light-hearted yet thought-provoking. It asks deep questions through a seemingly simple, non-linear narrative.

Now, the non-verbal play reaches the city audience through a virtual screening by InKo Centre, Chennai in collaboration with Korea Arts Management Service, Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism, Republic of Korea and Centre Stage Korea.

THEATRE FOR KIDS

InKo Centre presents Junk Clown by Hyunjang Theater Company, specially created for children. The 49-minute production will be available for viewing till July 25 at: www.inkocentre.org/Virtual_Connect_Infotainment.html
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