



Hi, I'm Lizzy Arnold and welcome to the showing of *Galatea*. This devised show has been brought to life by my amazing actors and crew, as well as my mentor, Thom Penn, and our violinist Te'Quan Coe. None of this would've been possible without them. I decided to create a show based on the myth Pygmalion and Galatea because I always felt that there was more to the story than what was apparent and that this was a story that needed to be told.

The myth of Pygmalion and Galatea centers around a sculptor who falls in love with a statue he creates. The statue was a carving of Pygmalion's vision of the "perfect woman", which he was inspired to make, being unsatisfied with the women in his community. He begged Aphrodite to bring her to life and she granted his wish, and they married. No one knows what occurred after.

Originally, this story didn't even mention Galatea, but as time passed and adaptations were made, Galatea's character was added into the narrative. Since then, several adaptations of this myth have been actualized, and the narrative has changed.

I decided to set this rendition after Galatea becomes human and Pygmalion marries her. I wanted to explore the nuances and underlying truths of their relationship. Specifically, the circumstances of their marriage, Galatea's naive nature and infancy to life paired with the abusive and controlling nature that lurks within the relationship. This reflects how our society has progressed in terms of how we view women and their experiences.

Tonight's performance also features the townswomen that Pygmalion loathed and often compared to Galatea. I wanted to explore and question the concept of beauty and how it is often used as a means of exclusion rather than empowerment. The word Galatea translates to "milk-white skin" because she was made from white marble, which was held as a symbol of her purity. The myth doesn't describe what she looked like as a human.

Lastly, the sound in the piece, specifically the concept of reversed audio is something I started implementing in devised pieces when I studied Physical Theatre at the Accademia dell'Arte and decided to further develop into the show. It separates words and sounds from their meanings or in some cases creates a whole new language.

Enjoy the show!

With care,
Lizzy

