Review - Beneath Springhill

Rating: ★★★★☆

Beneath Springhill is a play based on a true story. The play revolves around an African-Canadian man named Maurice Ruddick, who lives with his wife and 12 children. He makes a living off mining in the No. 2 mine in Springhill, Nova Scotia.

One day, Maurice was mining when he felt the ground shake. He fell 1 mile underground! At first, he couldn't see anything. Then, he turned on his headlight and saw 5 of his colleagues. His colleagues started to panic when they realized they were 1 mile underground. Maurice calmed them down. Suddenly, they all heard someone cry. It was Percy, one of their colleagues. His arm was stuck. The only way to get him out was to cut his arm off, and they didn't want to do that.

Several days later, Percy couldn't take it anymore. He told Maurice to cut his arm off. So he did. Shortly after, Percy died in his arms.

Now the 6 of the miners didn't have any food or drink left except for Maurice's honey banana sandwich, which he shared with the rest of the miners. But now, they were completely out of food. They only had one choice left, to eat coal and drink there urine.

After a day of that, all the miners, including Maurice, lost hope. But Maurice thought of his family, which gave him hope. He started banging the air pipe in the mine in hope that the rescue workers would find them. In fact, all the miners did that.

After hours of banging, the rescue workers finally found them. The mayor of Springhill invited all the survivors of the incident to a resort, except for Maurice. It was because he was coloured. That's when all the other miners rebelled. They said they weren't going unless Maurice went too. So Maurice went. He received the Citizen of the Year award for his heroic actions.

I recommend this play for ages 9 and up because it has aspects like music, comedy, and it was exciting and sad at some parts. It's these certain aspects that I think make the play a great play. Also, all the parts were played by one actor, which takes an incredible amount of skill. A skilled actor usually means a good play. Finally, there were great sound and lighting effects and little detail that I think made the play even better than it already was. The reason I recommend this play for ages starting from 9 is because it has somewhat of a dark story line and there are some parts an 8 year-old might not understand.

That is why I recommend "Beneath Springhill, the Bump of 1958" for ages 9 and up.

Review 2 - Beneath Springhill

The play "Beneath Springhill" is a performance about an African Canadian man who works in an east coast coal mining town in Nova Scotia. This man was named Maurice Ruddick. Maurice loved to sing and dance. This play was a musical.

When Maurice was down or frightened he would play music. He had twelve children and wanted thirteen! One day while he was mining he heard a rumble. A while after there was a bump. "The Bump of 1958". Many of Maurice's friends and colleagues died. He survived luckily. The miners were 2 miles down with no food and no water for 9 days. They were on the verge of dying. So much that they had to eat coal and drink there own urine.

The whole play was played by one actor named Beau Dixon. Occasionally, there would be blackouts because Beau Dixon had to change costumes and characters. I personally would recommend this play all though the performance was a little long and I would have preferred less music. I would recommend this play for the following reasons.

This performance was a musical, so if you enjoy musicals this would be a good play for you. All of the music was played right in front of you by Beau Dixon which was pretty cool!

Some individuals might not have enjoyed the play as much as I did. They might not have liked the music or the dark lighting. Some younger people might not have liked the dark lighting because they would be frightened.

I would recommend this play for children seven and up. The storyline was a little dark. There were even some kids from our school that were a little scared!

I think the play died out a little bit at the end. I would have liked the play more if it had a little more suspense.

Beau Dixon is a very skilled actor. If a different actor was in the play I think it wouldn't be as well done. Beau Dixon is an award winning multi talented man. I think he was perfect for this part.

I like the effort and acting that was put into the play and I appreciate that it came to my school. I wouldn't have usually picked this kind of play but it turned out to be very well done.

The End!