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The brothers menaechmus motifs

Essay, Pages 3 (561 words) Views Views Essay, Pages 3 (561 words) Plautus comedy The Menaechmus brothers easily give to laughter. The play is full of comic motifs that keep the audience entertained. For example, in this comedy there is dirty and sexual humor, mistaken identities, asides, literal wordplay, and running gags throughout but this paper will focus on some important elements. This comedy surpasses itself when it comes to dirty and sexual humor. For example, in the play when Menaechmus had just stolen his wife's night dress, he asks Peniculus to smell the skirt with which he replies I would rather smell the upper part of a woman's garment; elsewhere the nose detects a slightly unwashed smell. Don't waste time. Get a verified author to help you with the Menaechmus Brothers HIRE verified author \$35.80 for a 2-page paper This is funny because it shows the dirty side of male conversations when the two fuss with each other over what had been done. The next motive that can be seen is mistaken identity in the scene when Cylindrus mistakes Sosicles identity to his twin brother's Menaechmus. This motif is applied by Sosicles and Cylindrus bumping into each other in the marketplace and he believes that Sosicles is Menaechmus. This scene is very funny because Sosicles and Messenio believe Cylindrus is a nut job and the dialogue between them is insulting but humorous. Asides are common throughout this piece as well. They give the audience some extra information which, in this particular piece, tends to be humorous. For example, right after the scene where Cylindrus accidentally identity Sosicles to Menaechmus he looks to the audience (aside) and says it's perfectly normal for them to do it. Top author Prof Evander Verified author 4.8 (654) Marian Verified writer 4.8 (309) Marvellous Verified writer 4.7 (239) HIRE verified author That it is a game they play. This aside is funny because it shows that Cylindrus really thinks he's talking to Menaechmus when he really doesn't. The whole circumstances are pretty hysterical. The next motif that is applied effectively is literal wordplay. In the scene where Erotium and Sosicles first meet and she also mistakes his identity for Menaechmus literal wordplay used in a very smart-aleck way. When Sosicles tries to explain to her that he has never stepped foot into the country until then and had arrived on a ship she asks him what he meant by ship. To this he responds with a very literal description of what a boat is. This is funny because the audience knows that this was not the intended response Erotium had wanted. Finally, running gags are used throughout this piece. When Sosicles realizes that he can use his mistaken identity to profit when he is handed an expensive dress he decides to see what else his luck can get him. This is funny because Erotium was just for him to buy her expensive things but Sosicles is unconsciously using the identity of his twin brother to get hold of these nice items. When the maid asks Sosicles to take an expensive bracelet to get it renovated he tries to see what else he can get by asking if he should also take the arm-lets I gave her. The maid then tells him that he never did anything like that. This motif is well applied. Plautus Brothers Menaechmus is full of comic motifs like dirty humor, mistaken identities, asides, literal wordplay, and chorus gags that allow for a very humorous play. They are well applied and make for an entertaining read. The Menaechmus brothers. (2016, Dec 26). Downloaded t waste time. Get a verified author to help you with the Menaechmus Brothers HIRE verified author \$35.80 for a 2-page paper the Menaechmus brothers were and will always be considered one of Plautus' greatest works. William Shakespeare also fell in love with Plautus' play and used it for the basis of his play, A Comedy of Errors. There is no doubt that Plautus' plays made a big impact on many people and are still very popular all over the world. The main reason for Plautus' popularity and praise for his play was the effect of his central themes. Plautus experimented with several themes in his plays, ranging from mistaken identities to love and romance. Plautus used many themes in the Menaechmus brothers. Some of the most common and important themes include, love intrigue, reversal of traditions, younger patrons outsmarting their masters and guardians, and perhaps the most obvious of mistaken identity. The theme of love interests turns out to be a favorite of not only Plautus, but of many playwrights to this day. It seems that we can't go through a single play without a love interest coming in between any set of lovers, or distracting a character from what's really important. For Plautus the Menaechmus brothers, the latter of the two situations is premeditated. While he searches for his long-lost twin, Menaechmus Sosicles is thrown away by his plan by his sudden new love interest erotium. When Menaechmus Sosicles finds his way back on track to seek his brother, wife Menaechmus of Epidamnus has already discovered the twins' identities (Kate's). It seems that the identity of the twins and Menaechmus Sosicle's quest could have been quickly executed and more successful had not for his male instincts done the thinking for him. In another, less obvious theme, MacEwen talks about the theme of celebration of all that is not Roman: the reverse tradition, as shown by the domination of leisure over business and by the domination of slaves, sons and wives over his master and father. MacEwen explains himself further by discussing the treatment of money. She goes on to say that unlike the typical Roman penny-pincher, Plautus characters are opposite and don't ever seem to be concerned by their own money and the young hero constantly throws around. I do not seem to agree with this statement; I don't think Menaechmus Sosicles necessarily throws his money around while searching for his brother. Rather, I think his love and desire to find his brother drives him like never before to the point that he throws his money around as a means of necessity. In further observations, MacEwen states that Plautus' plays appear to take place on vacation. This behavior emphasizes the idea that business is less important than leisure. She goes on to discuss that even though Plautus' plays don't happen on a vacation, their plots still seem to be driven by an event on a vacation. As for the Menaechmus brothers, the first twin was stolen during a vacation in Tarentum, and the Menaechmus of Epidamnus regrets that he had to do business instead of eating with his mistress. Unlike the average Roman, the norm for these characters is for them to be concerned entirely with pleasure, and not at all with duty (MacEwen). I believe that I must once again agree with these statements. While it seems to be a recurring theme for the holidays with Plautus, the statement about the characters being concerned with complete delight must be dismissed. Going back to my previous research on love interests, I think family situations have a tendency to overcome norms in society. Although it may be true that Roman citizens of the time were solely concerned with pleasure and penny-pinching; I believe that family was also important to the Romans, and in my opinion the family wins over everything. In response to her own observations, MacEwen states, Perhaps Plautus, who lives in such a hierarchical society, wanted to disrupt the hierarchy and the traditional values by having the most influential members of that society be the ones who are the lowest, valued on their wit and power to run events, not their place in society. In looking at the most recognized and well-developed theme of the Brothers Menaechmus, mistaken identity, it is easy to see that this is also one of the most popular themes to write about. From the Menaechmus brothers and A Comedy of Errors, to better-known plays such as The Prince and Pauper and Twelfth Night, the theme of mistaken identity is generally popular and easy to understand and accepted in a comic setting. Rebecca Scollen, director of the USQ Performance Centre at the University of Southern Queensland, writes about the theme of mistaken identity. She says the theme plays on farce and is based on the visual, as well, on the technique of the actors and on dramatic irony, which is based on the audience know more about what's going on than the characters themselves. I agree with Scollen and also agree with her later stated fact that the audience loves the hilarity of this theme. In the Menaechmus brothers, the mistaken identity comes into play when Erotium and Menaechmus of Epidamnus' wife believe they have been ridiculed and taken as a fool. With the action of bracelets, robes and celebration turned upside down and falling apart, the audience is able to enjoy the story and laugh to the extent of incredible hilarity occurring on stage. At the end of the confusion, comedy and discovery of the two Menaechmus brothers, the brothers still can't figure out that they are related until the servant Messenio points out the obvious. This added a little humor allows the audience to experience further frustration and humor, as they again face an obvious fact that the actors are unaware of. These obvious facts are the reasons that Plautus was such a great playwright, he appealed to the masses and gave them what they wanted to see. By directing my own rendition of the Menaechmus Brothers, it would be important to bring the various elements from my researched shows into account. The first thing that I would exhibit to accomplish is that up-play comedy aspect of the show. Having the absolute comedy aspect would put the audience in a much happier mood and make the rather long story not seem that long. I would put my story in the Renaissance to incorporate love interests into the overall picture without being too obvious and desperate. The Renaissance is also a period when I am very familiar with and feel that I could do my best work through it. To promote the theme of love interests, I would stage the scene between Menaechmus Sosicles and Erotium with an airy feel. When Menaechmus Sosicles first lays eyes on Erotium, I would lay the stage with his passion. By sending in smoke, wind and a white light setting, I could easily up-play the romantic comedy situation. It would also be a nice change to have a peculiarity to Erotium. I would definitely make her an attractive character, but with perhaps a mistake about her that would bring her to a more humanistic light. In determining the stage of mistaken identity, I would bring the comedy aspect with full force. Let's bring mania and confusion to expand the scene when Erotium and Menaechmus of Epidamnus' wife think they are talking to the same brother. Instead of letting the brothers go in a couple of times, I would let them go in and out almost non-stop for a good time of constant dialogue and confusion, while never running into each other; or if they run into each other, they run into each other and never look straight into the eyes. I think my show would be a success and the comic aspects would be just the touch needed to the show for today's society and culture. As for lighting, I would start the show in shades of yellow, pink and white to get the feeling of normality on stage. All during Menaechmus Sosicles' journey, I would put the stage in a dull orange and perhaps a few shades of blues and purple. This would bring down-hearted feelings and determination menaechmus sosicles to life. When the brothers reunite again, for the first time, the lights will change to a brighter set of blues and purples, gradually changing to the starting colors of the final scene. My set will be a rotating set of three sides. I've seen this done and it was pretty effective. The three sides will be made up of the inside of a house, a wooden stage, and a village. The three will work as one in transforming the show into a reality. The house can be doubled from the beginning to the end with simple set piece and prop changes that can happen when the set is reversed the same goes for the other two sides. No matter how the show is put together, either by myself or other directors, it is important to always keep in mind Plautus' original ideas and concepts. Plautus was a great playwright who was still copied and made sure for ideas today. His works and writings will forever be remembered for many years to come, while his memory will never be forgotten. If I were to direct the Menaechmus brothers, or any of Plautus' shows, I would feel honored and faithful to his writing that others would come to appreciate his work just as I have. Works quoted

