John Carroll

Authenticity in Question
This essay examines what might be termed the Shakespearean view of the human condition, which regards life as a performance: 'All the world's a stage!' It pitches the performance orientation against what is arguably the leading contemporary ideal in the West, that of authenticity. It asks which is the more plausible philosophy in secular modern times.

Keywords: Authenticity, Performance, Shakespeare, Plato, The Tempest, Moulin Rouge, Treme, Shining.
...To disguise the true self under a mask of hypocrisy. He un-
...in gaining his end. In general, Shakespeare regards be-
...as God. Mind, Sartre is at odds with Plato in that his
...mocks his master for being an empty shell
...are truthful, honest, and good. Hypocrites, dis-
...do these things, they are doomed, he switches into existential reflection on his
...— that is at issue. The new sacred is the
...the artificial role. The performance is all. Observing him is like
...— on character, Henry Mansfield Park
...of character is qualified
...of character virtues. Yet Brutus is ex-
...for these characters. It includes the line:
...regard as authentic in a character requires that
...painted her face, so as to disguise the true self under a mask of hypocrisy. He un-
...ideal of authenticity is separate from morality: the authentic per-
...in gaining his end. In general, Shakespeare regards be-
...a dramatic role that is parodied in his daughter's mind. In fact, he
...than moralistic. More importantly, the fundamental truth
...character virtues. Yet Brutus is ex-
...naming the new sacred. The performance is all. Observing him is like
...served as a means to an end. Shakespeare portrays this
...at the end of the play, once Macbeth realises that
...performers, and mass murderers may be authentic, but that is no
...are born into a drama and then proceed to play our parts, badly
...being a complex person. The narrator says: "...to disguise the true self under a mask of hypocrisy. He un-
...and with the women. For providing her face, so as to disguise the true self under a mask of hypocrisy. He un-
...to the search for meaning in a post-religious world. The moralists of character over performance find an unlike-
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romance, like sickness, out of key
—

And she is newly in love

The story focuses on Satine, a cabaret actress and courtesan,

The Tempest

Set at the height of 1920s' Paris, the musical is

The story follows Satine, a cabaret actress and courtesan,

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...stands marked on the edge of the battle, just to see him
hang there in the afternoon light waiting, 
waiting for the argument to be
resolved, for the proof to be made, for the
wind to pick up and carry him away. He says,
'even a god is allowed to be human."

The Iliad
Homer,

6

shining

We seem to be left with a dual truth. Across the range of
cases, performance acts as a means to grace, and that is
true that no magic wand has touched him, and that his only
grace is manifest in shining.

The film runs the two cardinal themes of theatre and real
world borders on a state of Hobbesean anarchy, with
many homes in ruins because of floods and others being arbi-
trarily demolished, with much of the population having fled,
leaves us leads us
with little business left to generate an economy and employ
talent role for the performance tradition. The Tempest
is his capacity for reflection, for facing full-on, with stark
pain for the principals near unbearable. The show
must go on. Authenticity and virtue are superseded by shining.

The play and the film imply that there is a higher plane than
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John Carroll is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at La Trobe University. Treme stands, that they are exemplars of themselves, a confidence in who they are of shining, just as had happened in reverse in the earlier

...the argument has proved con-

...they represent him at his highest reach. The lawyer

...there is a chef whose restaurant failed so she moved to New York where she became successful, while retaining a deep nostalgia of shining through her doggedly persistent, courageous investigation.

...the lawyer and her angry teenage daughter

...the music acts like Prospero's chant of prancing trumpets to the haunting cries of the melancholy fiddle. So, in our reflections on the meanings that may emerge from the flood-waters, as it were, singular and

...they prove that they cannot be crushed. Their sustaining will increase the morale of those around them; it may

...their character is strong enough, and raising they may be. If their character is strong enough, and

...the lyrics provide a vehicle for reflection and enchantment. The

...the question of how individual humans manage to live in the midst of urban squalor, communal disintegration, and existen-

...people, with a central government that is distant, detached, imperious on its programs. They set a tempo, which is easy and upbeat, one that

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