

# Far East flavour to show

## review

### Looking for Yoghurt

The Door, Birmingham Repertory Theatre

This show for children has been created in a unique collaboration between the Rep and theatre companies in South Korea and Japan.

It was devised collaboratively by writers and actors from each country, and while the rehearsal period involved constant translation, the show itself is based on the premise that its three characters have no shared language.

In an unspecified big city, Norang (Young Ju Park) apprehensively follows her lost kitten Yoghurt into a deserted construction site. Here she encounters two other children, Aka (Yudai Kano) and Blue (Daniel Naddafy).

After overcoming initial mutual fear, the three quickly form a bond through play and help each other to overcome their anxieties.

Accompanied by percussionist Ayako Kaihatsu, the show is inevitably based on sound and movement more than dialogue, although in each country where it is performed the



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audience will hear a language it understands to help interpret what is going on.

The objective of writers Mijeong Kim, Toyoko Nishida and Peter Wynne-Willson was to celebrate the natural wisdom of children and their instinct for mutual support.

There is also the importance of learning through play in a world where parameters have become ever more restrictive – although hopefully young audiences will not take this too literally to suggest that construction sites make suitable playgrounds.

These children drive heavy machines and climb perilously on a crane.

That thought apart, Looking for Yoghurt is a work of fragile charm, oddly slight in relation to the considerable international effort which has gone into its creation. But perhaps on this occasion the journey was more important than the destination.

Running time: One hour, 20 minutes (no interval). Until May 30. Also at Spark Children's Festival, Leicester June 2-4. 3/5

Terry Grimley