

Ghost Light Theatricals

Fool for Love

Program Notes by Roxanne Ray

Imagine the desert: vast, monochrome beige, and very dry, as far as the eye can see. Why would someone come to the open desert – an environment so inhospitable due to its lack of water? A lack of water that we can see with our eyes, that is....

Deep underground, or securely protected within the prickly exterior of the cactus, lie collections of hard-won water – kept and contained in order to sustain life. But above ground, all that life-giving water is invisible. And what looks like water is often just a mirage.

At a cheap hotel lost in an arid wasteland, the eyes can fall victim to tricks, as well. That thirst-quenching glass of water may be yet another moisture-sapping serving of tequila. A lack of tears may mean not a lack of sorrow, but a surplus of it, long ago parching the heart. And a family bond may offer no more sustenance than the dry, sandy desert.

Yet, a huge variety of flora and fauna thrive in desert conditions. They build a life out of the invisible, and make careful choices about how to safeguard their fluids. They do this with less “intelligence” and technology than the people who’ve commandeered their lands. But by carving out survival – even longevity – in a desiccated, vacant region where dust stings the eyes, they call into question the human definition of emptiness.

Thank you for joining us as we explore Sam Shepard’s landscape of mind and emotion in *Fool for Love*.