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12 General Maze

The play *Memories of the Past* was written and first produced in 2015. Falling within the drama genre, it is Albert Johnson's second production.

I attended the **opening / starting / welcoming** night of the play in Sydney, Australia in the summer of 2015. The play explored the sadness that comes **on / of / with** growing old.

It focused upon three main characters - a couple and their life-long friend - struggling with old age and dealing with misunderstandings between themselves and their families.

Lots of details **was / had been / were** given about their lives, which gave the characters depth. The choice of actors - a group of older actors who have been good friends most of their lives - was inspired. The strength **in / of / with** their relationships could easily be seen right from the first act. The actors seemed very comfortable with each other and with being on the stage, which made it a more enjoyable experience for the audience.

The stage **were / was** set up in a very interesting way. The lights were dimmed throughout most of the play and the simple backdrop helped the transition **among / between / from** the present and the past in different acts. In my opinion, the choice of dimmed lighting represented the loneliness often felt by older people, and when they moved to scenes from their young days in the past, the lights were suddenly bright again. Little furniture was used and was placed at the corners of the stage which meant that the audience's attention **were / was** focused on the actors rather than the stage.

Overall, I would say that this was a well-written and excellently produced example of performing arts. I left the theatre still thinking about the characters and relating everything to my own life and the relationships I **had / do / have** with the older generation of my family. I think it'll be very influential in shifting **people's / peoples' / people** thinking about the time they have left with **there / they're / their** older friends and family. A lot of reviews argued that this could have been easily transformed into an opera or a tragedy, but I think it is perfect just the way it is.

10/10

2. General praise

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