

To start off, Arcadia takes place in the years 1809 and 1812 during the Regency period and the year 1993 for the contemporary period, staying true to the time Stoppard wrote in and about. I see Arcadia as a drama with comedic moments. It has the ability to move the spirit and express emotions in various forms while traveling back and forth in time showing characters both suffering and enjoying themselves. The majority of the characters are in search of something, be it knowledge, the past, truth, sex, or love. It is human nature at both its finest and worst which is why Arcadia is a drama with the uplifting nature of a comedy.

The play comes down to questions of the hermit: who is he and what his story is? It takes the two periods to work together, learning of the hermit when he was known as Septimus Hodge and who he became after the death of Thomasina. Arcadia is a love story, while acknowledging the science and the logic of the play; I see this world as a romance that embraces the mystery and the lives of these characters. Stoppard masks this love story behind a mystery, behind the scientific jargon, ideas, values, and beliefs, behind philosophical ideals of Romanticism vs. Classicism, determinism, non-linear time, and post-modern structure. This is not a simple play with a simple way of presenting a love story but it is a play worth witnessing and experiencing because of how the lives of these characters are told.

Arcadia can express both reason and emotion. Time is not fixed and it is not linear. The two worlds are experiencing time at a different rate yet each period is dependent and connected to each other. These two worlds work together in a manner, which represents the beauty, grace and agility of a minuet. There is softness in the edges and the characters that inhabit this world represent their surroundings and he characters should feel at home. The world compliments either by glorifying the characters intentions, or highlighting the dysfunction in their lives. This is a space that has been lived in, heard much, and has a life of its own. It contains mysteries, romances, affairs, and will hold secrets from and for all time. The characters play with space in their relationship to it and others, either lengthening it or shortening it. The room never changes physically but it should have the ability to compress and expand as it sees fit. Ideally I see the Regency period in earth tones and softer, full of edges that seem unclear whereas the contemporary world is sharper, brighter and as the play advances these two worlds begin to fold in on itself so that by the end, as scene seven progresses time does not exist, only the characters and the space they inhabit.

Below is a painting called "In Love" by Marcus Stone, it has some of the colors, light, textures and beauty that I see in Arcadia.

