

John Misto's highly dramatic play *The Shoe-horn Sonata* reunites two women after fifty years, though problems between the women still exist, unresolved problems which has kept them apart for fifty years and stops them from being completely honest with each other.

The main problem, Bridie and Sheila has is about trust. Sheila has concealed a terrible secret for years from Bridie, which she had ended up lying about and consequently has stopped the two women from keeping in contact with each other, even after such an ordeal of being in a Japanese war camp together. Tension can be seen immediately between the two in the first couple of scenes.

In the interview the women seem keen to tell the story, but reluctant to tell the whole truth, as is Sheila's case.

Sheila's secret which isn't revealed until the end of act two, is about how Sheila had to ~~prostate~~ prostitute herself to 'lipstick Larry' in order to get Bridie medicine to save her life. Ironic because Bridie herself never would have done such a thing.

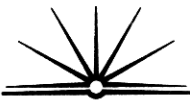
Tension also lies between the two women over their own patriarchal views, ~~on~~ ^{to} their own country.

Bridie blames the British, while Sheila a British girl herself remained entirely faithful to her country the whole time.

These problems are dramatised through the stage techniques of the play.

Misto uses such techniques as lighting, sound, music and projected images to ~~be~~ help the women and audience revisit the ~~exp~~ incredibly personal experience, which ~~invokes~~ ^{invokes} old memories and new feelings between the pair.

These unresolved problems, create subtle conflict between the characters which



The audience can see being played out on stage. The ~~interviewer~~ interviewer "Rick" who is never seen but only heard, in his own way helps with the resolution of these characters, through his questions, which are usually very personal.

These problems would be more dramatised through the two main characters body language and facial reactions to each other this which can not be read but only seen by the audience.

These problems are resolved through the unveiling of the story of the two women.

Particularly Sheila revisiting pictures of 'Lipstick Larry' and wanting to let go of her dark secret.

Though even when this is revealed tension still exist between the two women, because of Bridie's disgust in Sheila's actions, which is mostly to do with Bridie being a Catholic and Sheila being a

protestant.

The problems are resolved ~~throu~~ finally with the two women letting go of past emotions and forgiving each other.

Bridie who was once ~~aggr~~angry with Sheila for selling her shoe-horn ~~know~~ knows the truth and has her father's shoe-horn back, but now it represents something more, the shoe-horn represents Bridie and Sheila's relationship and how it stood against adversity and triumphed, it represents the human spirit and power relationships.