

“SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES”

Macbeth

by St Georges Primary School

at The Floral Pavilion, Wednesday 16th February

appraised by Lisa O’Hanlon

I would like to send my sincerest congratulations to St Georges Primary School on your wonderful production of Macbeth as part of the Spring 22 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a brilliant evening of theatre, and I'd like to talk about a few elements that really shone.

It was very exciting to visit your school on the 11th January during your casting process and amazing to see the product of your relatively short rehearsal period on stage – a very skilful interpretation of a dark and brooding Macbeth. It was evident that you had done a phenomenal amount of intensive work and had really come together as an ensemble during the process. Extremely well done!

Throughout your play you shared some very strong character acting skills. Your principal characters were defined so clearly, through your highly developed physical and vocal skills. The ensemble worked with great focus and heightened reactions, full of energy and commitment. Fully rounded and emotionally expressive characters make for exciting storytelling...you undoubtedly achieved this and transported our audience (and me!) to the imposing castles, deserted places and the blood stained battlefields of Macbeth's Scotland.

The whole cast's vocal delivery conveyed a deep understanding of the text. Voices were strong, articulate and highly expressive. The Shakespearean dialogue was communicated very naturally with instinctive use of gestures, along with a very confident use of the stage. All this is evidence of your hard work in the rehearsal room, underpinned by the obvious joy of performing with your fellow actors and Director. Overall, your acting skills, knowledge of your play and confidence levels seemed beyond your years. Most impressive!

In addition to the above, I loved how you successfully showed the status relationships in the play and I shuddered when I heard the approaching armies marching rhythmically and menacingly to battle. A very skilled adlib to cover for an actor's late cue must be applauded along with the inspired music choices for Lady Macbeth's soliloquy, which really captured the frailty of her mind and her vulnerability. Also, when you're preparing to fight who wouldn't want the Rocky soundtrack ringing in their ears? Brilliant!

How wonderful to hear the actors in the wings already volunteering for next year too! This was a magnificently murderous and atmospheric Macbeth, performed by a highly skilled, confident and committed ensemble.

Staging a Shakespeare play in these changing times takes extra courage, tenacity, and creativity. You should be incredibly proud of what you and your teachers have achieved.

I hope to see St Georges Primary School in the next Festival!

Lisa O’Hanlon

**“A MAGNIFICENTLY MURDEROUS AND ATMOSPHERIC
MACBETH, PERFORMED BY A HIGHLY SKILLED, CONFIDENT
AND COMMITTED ENSEMBLE”**