

“DID MY HEART LOVE ‘TILL NOW?”

Romeo and Juliet
by St. Joseph's RC Primary
at The KLCP, Knowsley, 19-Nov-19
appraised by Lisa O'Hanlon

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to St. Joseph's RC Primary for your tremendous production of Romeo and Juliet as part of the 2019 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was an excellent night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

Congratulations on a great production of clear, well thought-out storytelling. With your striking red and blue bandanas, I loved how you visually established the feud from the outset. Your fight scenes were particularly impressive, full of dramatic yet realistic reactions from the ensemble. Your stage combat skills were showcased well and your physical work throughout was bold, and full of energy and commitment.

As an ensemble you transported us on the emotional journey of the play through the anger and aggression, the love and romance, and grief leading to reconciliation. Your use of gesture and mime, which illustrated and supported the narration, was an excellent convention, used very effectively. Your use of the stage (blocking) was beautifully creative and you quickly adapted to the new space. It was lovely to see how well you listened to your Teacher-Director and your skills and performance really improved as a result of your hard work throughout the day. Well done!

I was impressed by your knowledge of the play and how you dealt with the technical run with such professional attitudes. Also, a special mention goes to Lucas, who took on the Lord Capulet role at short notice and did a great job. It was clear that you supported each other during rehearsals. Your ensemble dancing in the party scene was absolutely joyous. You were such a lovely company to work with and thanks for some great tunes in the soundtrack Mr. Hughes!

Congratulations on a fabulously feuding, well-rehearsed 'Romeo and Juliet' by a very hardworking, supportive and talented ensemble. Great work!

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes bravery, resilience, and creativity. You should be immensely proud of what you and your teachers have achieved in this Season of Infinite Variety.

I hope to see St. Joseph's RC Primary in the 2020 Festival!

Lisa O'Hanlon

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