

“BE NOT AFRAID OF GREATNESS”

Twelfth Night

by Oak View Primary School

at The Abbey Theatre, 18-Nov-19

appraised by Lindsay Lloyd

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Oak View Primary School for your tremendous production of Twelfth Night 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.

What a delightful, enthusiastic and colourful performance. I thought you all displayed such confidence on stage with lovely clear and projected voices. You were very well rehearsed and your enthusiasm swept us along with you. You also brought out the humour of the play - and that is a great achievement for lines that are over 400 years old.

I loved the idea of turning the narrators into village gossips. This gave them specific characters to play. They very capably guided us through the story and remained in character at all times, either chatting amongst themselves, reading magazines or reacting to the drama as it unfolded. I also want to commend the entire cast for remaining in character throughout the performance - especially during entrances and exits.

I loved your costume choices. They added a splash of colour to the piece and were cleverly selected for each character. They also helped the audience understand that this production had a historic setting. I really enjoyed the moments of song on stage - even Sir Toby and Sir Andrew's caterwauling! It was performed in character and was entirely appropriate.

I particularly enjoyed your quick transitions from scene to scene. There were no pauses to slow the action down and that kept the momentum of the play throughout and it built to a lovely climax at the end. I would also like to mention your final song which you turned into verse - every character saying a line as they came forward for their final bow. It was a lovely conclusion to this wonderful comedy.

This was a vibrant, confident and joyous performance of Twelfth Night from a delightful cast.

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 Oak View Primary School in the 2020 Festival!

Lindsay Lloyd

“THIS WAS A VIBRANT, CONFIDENT AND JOYOUS PERFORMANCE OF TWELFTH NIGHT FROM A DELIGHTFUL CAST.”