

“DID MY HEART LOVE ‘TILL NOW?”

Romeo and Juliet
by St. John's Catholic Primary School - Cast One
at The Capstone Theatre, 21-Nov-19
appraised by Kayleigh Hawkins

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to St. John's Catholic Primary School - Cast One 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.

I thought the way this cast adapted to the large stage space was very commendable. Your opening was extremely powerful and it was clear to see that every single actor was going to play an important role in telling this story. Shakespeare works best when it embraces the spirit of ensemble, and this was clearly integral in your performance.

You showed great discipline in the flight scenes, evidence of your sheer hard work and determination in the rehearsal room. You created some really beautiful images on stage as an ensemble, particularly in the ball scene.

I was impressed at how well you knew your play and how efficient you were at entering and exiting the stage. It also meant that your play had a lovely pace and energy to it. The narrators did an excellent job speaking their lines together in unison. This emphasised the importance of their lines, communicating the story with total clarity to your audience. The whole company used their voices very well and showed some very strong characters and some powerful emotions. I thought you did an incredible job of handling of very difficult language, which was projected and delivered brilliantly to the audience.

A huge well done to Alex who did a fantastic job in the tech box. The technical aspects of this show were visually stunning and successfully set the scene for a moving, heatbreaking version of Romeo and Juliet.

It was a pleasure to work with your school for the whole day and I was most impressed by how hard you worked on your performance. It was wonderful to see how supportive you were of each other, on and off stage.

This was a beautiful, energised and dynamic Romeo and Juliet from a very talented company.

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. John's Catholic Primary School - Cast One in the 2020 Festival!

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