

## “SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES”

### Macbeth

by St. John's Catholic Primary School  
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 Two for your tremendous production of Macbeth 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.

This show opened with a dark and dangerous bang. I loved the entrance of the witches and thought their physicality was brilliant. I really enjoyed your personal adaptations to the text which made this story your own and brought a lot of fun to this dark tale. Using the witches as narrators was a strong stage craft technique that enhanced the gory, spooky world of your play. This was a very clever story telling technique that helped the audience understand the plot.

The cast did a great job of landing their lines to the back of the auditorium, you have clearly been working on SSF 'Top Tips'. The Shakespearean language is very difficult to learn and understand. However, the audience could tell how much you had invested in learning your lines because you spoke with so much clarity and expression. The audience could clearly follow the story and understand how your characters were feeling thanks to your expert delivery.

The use of lights and sound were effective at building the dark and murderous atmosphere for this play. I loved the eerie background music that played throughout. I really liked the 'Keep out' tape as a device to set up the crime scene. Your simple choice of props, such as the candle, and the portrayal of Birnam wood were extremely effective. It was Shakespeare with no frills, no fancy costumes, props or scenery, just accomplished actors in the space, clearly articulating their story to the audience.

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 expressive, eerie and atmospheric Macbeth from a hardworking 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 Two in the 2020 Festival!

Kayleigh Hawkins

---

**“THIS WAS A EXPRESSIVE, EERIE AND ATMOSPHERIC  
MACBETH FROM A HARDWORKING COMPANY.”**