

'If music be the food of love, play on'

Twelfth Night

by Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School

at The Hawth, 19/02/2024

appraised by Marcus Bazley

Congratulations Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School for your fantastic reimagining of Twelfth Night as part of the Spring 24 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a thrilling night of theatre, and I'd like to shine a spotlight on some aspects I really loved.

There was so much to enjoy about your Twelfth Night, it's hard to know where to begin! You cleverly reimagined Ilyria as a modern beachside party town, building this unique world of your play through costume, design and ensemble movement. The way you integrated modern elements into the story was beautifully done, particularly through the 'Ring' doorbell and airdrop notifications. You moved back and forth between Shakespearean and modern language seamlessly.

You used movement and music to tell the story brilliantly. From your dramatic shipwreck start, through the various lovers falling for each other and building into a climactic fight sequence, it was always and immediately clear exactly what was going on. These moments told the story very powerfully but also with great comic effect! I especially loved the way the fight scene moved from Wild West through Kung-Fu to Rocky! And I also spent the car journey home listening to Muse after your amazing opening sequence!

Not only was your show brilliant, but you conducted yourselves with such maturity, generosity and care throughout the day. You were incredibly patient during the technical rehearsal when we had to repeat some sections to perfect your tech. I also really respected your honesty at knowing when you needed a break or some time off the stage. You did all this whilst being superbly supportive of the other school on the day as well.

This was a playful and joyful reimagining of Twelfth Night from a skilled and dedicated cast.

We're thrilled to have reimagined Shakespeare with you this year and have loved being with you on your journey from classroom to stage. We can't wait to work with Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School again in the next Festival!

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