

“DID MY HEART LOVE ‘TILL NOW?”

Romeo and Juliet
by Bridge and Patrixbourne CE Primary School
at The Gulbenkian, Canterbury, 7/11/2017
appraised by Iain Jones

I would like to offer sincere thanks and congratulations to Bridge and Patrixbourne CE Primary School for your wonderful production of Romeo and Juliet as part of the 2017 Shakespeare Schools Festival. Students and teachers alike have put hard work, imagination, determination and passion into this production, and were a credit to the school. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few fantastic moments that you should be especially proud of.

- ❖ This was one of our younger companies, Years 5 and 6, who were so professional in waiting until the end of the evening to perform - what a dramatic way to finish the night!
- ❖ From the start the audience knew that the stakes were high as the Montagues and Capulets filled the stage with slow motion fighting. Throughout the show you went on to make more effective stage pictures, the audience particularly enjoyed your frozen party images. It was a nice creative touch to see Romeo getting dumped by his girlfriend just seconds before he saw Juliet for the first time and, as the company sighed, the audience knew that this was an important moment. Elsewhere, the performers creatively turned into a church, a balcony and a shop.
- ❖ It was an effective idea to have three actors playing Romeo and two different people as Juliet. The transitions in handing the parts over were seamless.
- ❖ The storytelling was very clear, and the costume design cleverly put the Montagues in blue and the Capulets in red. Friar Lawrence thoroughly looked the part in a wonderful bald wig!
- ❖ The celebratory dancing of the party scene was impressive, as was the beautiful ensemble choreography and singing for the balcony scene.

Well done for a romantic, creative and confident production of Romeo and Juliet.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see Bridge and Patrixbourne CE Primary School in the Festival again next year.

Iain Jones

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