

“ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE, AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN MERELY PLAYERS”

All the World's A Stage
by Bluecoat Meres Academy
at The Lincoln Drill Hall, 11/11/2019
appraised by Callie Nestleroth

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Bluecoats Meres Academy for your tremendous production of All the World's A Stage 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 adaptation of the well known speech 'All the World's a Stage' was incredibly emotive and moving. This is one of Shakespeare's most famous speeches and you made it feel new, fresh and current, with the creative spin you added to the text. Once again, your hard work throughout rehearsals was evident and the result was both heart-warming and heart wrenching (in all the right places!).

It was refreshing to see this company rise to the challenge of staging this speech with so much professionalism, maturity and intelligent thought. Shakespeare works best when it embraces the spirit of ensemble, and this was clearly integral in your performance. As an ensemble you worked seamlessly together to create a piece that was both emotionally moving and visually stunning.

It was wonderful to share the journey you went on from your company workshop to the performance day. You 'landed your lines' and spoke with clear, strong voices. You 'shared with the audience' more and adapted quickly to the stage, which is a much larger playing space than you were used to. I was impressed by your strong, clear storytelling, with some very expressive physical and vocal work. Overall, I could see that your skills and confidence had really developed since the early stage of your company workshop.

This was a creative, intelligent and refreshingly unique production, from a confident and inspiring 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 Bluecoats Meres Academy in the 2020 Festival!

Callie Nestleroth

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