

'Something wicked this way comes'

Macbeth
by Heatherlands Primary
at Lighthouse Poole, 19/03/2024
appraised by Marcus Bazley

Congratulations Heatherlands Primary for your fantastic reimagining of Macbeth 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.

I really enjoyed the setting of Macbeth as a high school power struggle. I thought the adapted school uniforms were really effective at creating an environment in which everyone is trying to look cool and stand out from the crowd. The use of mobile phones as power symbols and ways of recording events and influencing others worked really well both within the context of the Macbeth story and as a comment on our modern society.

You created some really powerful ensemble moments that highlighted key moments in the story. I especially loved the way the Banquo ghost appearance happened in a crowded disco-style setting. You all created the cool, party atmosphere with full commitment (including classic dance moves!) and this created a really sinister contrast to the appearance of the ghost and Macbeth's confused mental state. This was heightened when the company all started filming the Macbeths, creating a real sense of peer pressure and the need to maintain appearances.

I thought you all grew in confidence so well through the day, your voices and performances becoming so much bigger and louder by the time the audience were watching. You really took ownership of the stage and you should be really proud of the performance you shared with your audience.

Finally, a massive well done to Louis. The tech team were really impressed with how much you got involved and the way you listened to instructions. The fact they had the confidence to let you operate for another school is testament to how much you impressed them!

This was a modern and chilling Macbeth from a brave and focussed ensemble.

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 Heatherlands Primary again in the next Festival!

HEATHERLANDS PRIMARY