

“BE NOT AFRAID OF GREATNESS”

Twelfth Night
by Hazel Oak School
at mac Birmingham, 20/11/2017
appraised by Helena Devereux

I would like to offer sincere thanks and congratulations to Hazel Oak School for your wonderful production of Twelfth Night 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 a fun production with lovely touches such as the narrator dressed as a jester and the 'caper' dance between Sir Andrew & Sir Toby being very lively. The live music really supported this and gave the sense of us being at a festival.
- ❖ The voice-over narration in this piece was a fantastic addition to make the storytelling super clear - there is so much going on within the plot of Twelfth Night that it's great to help the audience out by signposting things as you did.
- ❖ This company were very professional throughout the day in the technical and dress rehearsals. This professionalism also came through in your final performance in the swift scene changes.
- ❖ You seemed to relish having a large live audience for their show, and you really stepped up and made it even better than the dress rehearsal! It was wonderful to see you really enjoying the magic of live theatre, and your joy was infectious to us in the audience!

This was a fun and characterful Twelfth Night from a professional and committed company.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see Hazel Oak School in the Festival again next year.

Helena Devereux

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