

“IF WE SHADOWS HAVE OFFENDED”

A Midsummer Nights Dream

by Loughton School

at The Stantonbury Theatre, 06-Nov-19

appraised by Tory Sandars

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Loughton School for your tremendous production of A Midsummer Nights Dream 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.

Wow - what a way to finish our evening of Shakespeare. So much energy and passion from every member of this young company of actors. Your level of understanding of these ancient and strange words is well beyond your years. It is clear how hard you have all worked to bring this performance to the stage.

I loved how you defined each group within this world: with the lovely Flapper and Boater for the Lovers, the Military Athenians, the Peaky Blinder Mechanicals and the Fairies in white with their lights who were able to create some beautiful stage pictures. Another group that was utilised was your wonderful narrators, not only servants in your bow ties but you became different locations.

Your selection of recorded music also helped to heighten the changing mood and atmosphere of the play - from Downton Abbey for the Athenian court, Darth Vader's anthem for the entrance of Egeus and Careless Whisper for everyone who falls in love. You brought so much joy and laughter to the piece, you were able to draw out the humour of this text and create some very funny moments.

As a young company of actors you were able to produce a magical and marvellous Midsummer. Congratulations!

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 Loughton School in the 2020 Festival!

Tory Sandars

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MIDSUMMER. CONGRATULATIONS!”**