

“ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE”

As You Like It
by Carshalton High School for Girls
at The Rose Theatre Kingston, 11/20/2017
appraised by Iain Jones

I would like to offer sincere thanks and congratulations to Carshalton High School for Girls for your wonderful production of *As You Like It* 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 company, comprising of Years 8 and 9, were very professional all day. One of the members only took over a part at the last minute but the audience would never have known.
- ❖ The costumes - consisting of tail coats, waistcoats and hats – both evoked the countryside and echoed the theme of ‘All the world’s a stage’ in their theatricality. The storytelling was very clear, and it was evident that Celia wanted to run away with Rosalind because of the Duke’s fierce temper. As an ensemble you cleverly showed that this was not a happy dukedom.
- ❖ The forest was a much more free and happy place. You created that world with an effective soundscape and stage pictures. The audience particularly enjoyed the moment in which the trees showed their displeasure in having Orlando’s poems hung on them. You also made a wonderful, slow motion, wrestling scene animated with dramatic facial expressions. What a detailed touch that, when we next saw Charles the wrestler, she was on crutches.
- ❖ There was a lot of joy in the air in your Forest of Arden as Minnie Ripperton sang ‘Lovin’ You’.

Well done for an atmospheric, poetic and creative production of ‘As You Like It’.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see Carshalton High School for Girls in the Festival again next year.

Iain Jones

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