

## “DID MY HEART LOVE ‘TILL NOW?”

Romeo and Juliet  
by Brookfields Special School  
at The Corn Exchange, Newbury, 7/11/2017  
appraised by Lindsay Lloyd

I would like to offer sincere thanks and congratulations to Brookfield Special School for your wonderful production of Romeo and Juliet 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.

- ❖ Congratulations on a dramatic and compelling production. The Harry Potter theme worked extremely well and you all looked wonderful in swirling black capes with red linings.
- ❖ Your clever choice of music beautifully added drama and atmosphere to every scene and there we saw excellent characterisation from this cast. You really threw yourselves into the roles and we were completely engrossed in the production.
- ❖ You told the story well, saying Shakespeare's lines with meaning and managed to inject lovely moments of humour that acted as a counterpoint to the sadness of this tragedy.
- ❖ Your use of the ensemble to prompt characters, highlight words, add sound effects, become trees, tombstones or pall-bearers worked really well and enhanced the whole production. The show built to a wonderful climax that moved me to tears and the audience responded with a standing ovation.

This was an atmospheric, compelling and moving Romeo and Juliet from a delightful company.

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

Lindsay Lloyd

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