

“OUR PLAY IS PREFERRED”

BEDELSFORD SCHOOL DELIVERS FIVE STAR PERFORMANCE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Bedelsford School

20th November 2020

Appraised by Bethany Appleton



I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Bedelsford School for your exceptional production of A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of the 2020 Shakespeare Schools Festival, One Night of Shakespeare. Against all odds you have shown the world that theatre can be created in the darkest of times, demonstrating the best of yourselves. It was a wonderful performance, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

The first thing that struck me about this performance was the incredible energy that you brought to it! You really lent into the possibilities of staging a performance online and made an opportunity out of what could have been an obstacle to take full advantage of the new medium, making this an original take on a classic play.

You all did an amazing job of creating the magical world of the theatre and the fairies. I loved that every cast member had their moment in the spotlight. It was great to see each performer featured individually, allowing the audience to appreciate everyone's unique contribution.

This was encapsulated in the reveal of the Wow Now Theatre, a beautiful piece of set design which incorporated aspects of every cast member.

From your shaking for Shakespeare to your orchestra of bells; from an absolutely joyous dance party to the whole cast turning into donkeys, I thought this was a brilliantly interactive and truly fresh rendering of the story of the fairies, with a heart-warming message of love and celebration at its core.

This was a musical tour de force, a fun and innovative production of A Midsummer Night's Dream from a lively and imaginative ensemble.

I am in awe of your boundless creativity, talent and determination. This was the year for experimentation and you rose to the challenge of performing Shakespeare for the camera with bravery, resilience and ingenuity. This demonstrates a great deal of maturity as actors, and innovation as theatre-makers. I know you will look back on 2020 with a great deal of pride at what you have achieved especially in light of the challenges you have faced. You all deserve a round of applause and standing ovation!

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