

'Something wicked this way comes'

Macbeth

by Carrington School

at Leatherhead Theatre, 14/11/2023

appraised by Marcus Bazley

Congratulations Carrington School for your fantastic reimagining of Macbeth as part of the Autumn 23 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a thrilling night of theatre, and I'd like to shine a spotlight on some aspects I really loved.

From the very start of your production you created a really eerie atmosphere on stage. The way you utilised the ensemble in the witches scenes to echo the prophecies was chilling. Then you built on this later, as the apparitions appeared out of the ensemble throwing their warnings at Macbeth with a haunting energy and power.

I thought you used the stage space really effectively throughout the piece. You managed to highlight the difference between the public and the private with how you opened and closed the space. So, for example, the way the space was filled with characters and spaced out for the arrival of Duncan to the castle created a sense of public show and ceremony. This was contrasted beautifully with the moments of private intensity where individual characters or pairs of characters felt like they were almost trapped in a spotlight.

From the moment you arrived at the theatre, you brought an engaged and excited energy that was infectious! At the same time, you were also incredibly respectful and receptive to direction. You performed with a maturity beyond your years, with the relationships between characters being especially clear, strong and natural.

Finally, a big well done to Ben for his work in the tech box. Throughout the tech and dress rehearsals you were communicative and engaged, actively shaping the look and feel of the production on stage. Well done!

This was a dark and eerie production of Macbeth, from a mature and energetic cast.

We're thrilled to have reimagined Shakespeare with you this year and have loved being with you on your journey from classroom to stage. We can't wait to work with Carrington School again in the next Festival!

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PRODUCTION OF MACBETH, FROM
A MATURE AND ENERGETIC CAST.**