

# “WE ARE SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON”

The Tempest  
by Hadrian Primary and Nursery School  
at The Northern Stage, 9/11/2020  
appraised by Josie Lena Davies

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Hadrian Primary and Nursery School for your tremendous production of The Tempest 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.

The design elements of this production were beautiful and the costumes, set, and props transported the audience directly into the world of the play and conveyed the status of the characters in a relatable, relevant way. Not only did this cast make this story entertaining throughout, they also showed a clear understanding of Shakespeare's script and great craft as storytellers.

The characters all showed clear purpose and intention and it was brilliant seeing how much they had grown in confidence between the company workshop and performance day. The narration was expressive, loud and clear and helped the audience understand the story beautifully. There were also some brilliant comic performances, especially from the drunken characters who added lots of humour into the production.

The dancing in this production was remarkable and aided the characterisation hugely, elevating Ariel into a mystical being. The singing was also incredible and the vocal power filled the entire space as well as providing strong dramatic moments. It's hard to believe the age of these performers given how skilled they are. The professionalism of the company was astounding and we were astonished by the level of talent in the cast. I wouldn't be surprised to see members of the cast on many professional stages in years to come.

It was wonderful to see a director creating a performance that played to the strengths of each of the cast members and showcased their talents really effectively. It was also brilliant to see how supportive and encouraging all of the students were to each other and towards the other school.

This was an impressive, polished and dynamic Tempest from a talented, intelligent and focused cast.

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 Hadrian Primary and Nursery School in the 2020 Festival!

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