

“FRIENDS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN...”

Julius Caesar
by Ribchester St. Wilfrids CE Primary School
at The Blackburn Empire Theatre, 5/11/2019
appraised by Jane Allanach

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Ribchester St. Wilfrids CE Primary School for your tremendous production of Julius Caesar 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.

From the very beginning of this excellent performance, a world of unrest was created before our very eyes: the arrival of Caesar and the different reactions from the crowd set the scene for what was to follow. The ensemble worked together very well, especially during the choral speaking of, 'Beware the Ides of March', which forewarned the audience about the impending drama about to unfold.

Alongside the ensemble, the narrators did an excellent job of explaining the complex plot to us. They were clear and articulate and maintained the energy required to move the play forward.

A particular favourite was Caesar's death scene, during which the ensemble gathered around Caesar with their list of complaints. The tension rose higher and higher eventually breaking with a gruesome stabbing. The timing and execution of action was performed with great skill.

The children worked very well together, and behaved professionally during the daytime rehearsals. This was a really dramatic, historical production, clearly articulated and confidently performed.

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 Ribchester St. Wilfrids CE Primary School in the 2020 Festival!

Jane Allanach

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