

YOUR APPRAISAL



“FOR NEVER WAS A STORY OF MORE WOE” A BEAUTIFUL AND POIGNANT PRODUCTION

Romeo & Juliet

**Produced and Performed by
Shiphay Learning Academy
Princess Theatre**

24 November 2016

Appraised by Nick Taylor

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of Shiphay Learning Academy on their fantastic production! I'd like to highlight a few things from this group that stood out, wowed the audience and made this Shakespeare Schools Festival night an evening to remember.

You delivered an amazing range of emotions in this performance, and had your audience moved by the way you balanced love and tenderness, with jealous and frustration.

The simple all black costume design enabled the actors to use their bodies to create scenery, express emotion and highlight the play's themes, in particular it was really effective how you had the family groups on either side of the stage throughout. Your physicality throughout was both graceful and strong - it felt like every gesture was choreographed, and that made it visually really impressive.

Your characters were all very clear as were the relationships between you – Romeo and Juliet

were portrayed very maturely, to a strong contrast of the sense of fun we had been Mercutio, Benvolio and Romeo, to give one example.

I loved the creative range of ways that you depicted violence in the play, from stage combat, mime, slow motion and acrobatics – each one was precise and effective in telling us the story.

The ending of your production was incredibly touching, with Juliet waking up and seeing Romeo die – you brought a new perspective to such a well known story.

Thank you for this poignant and ultimately heartbreaking story.

“It's a significant achievement to do something as difficult and aspirational as perform one of Shakespeare's plays on a professional stage. Everyone who's taken part should be so proud of themselves.”

Ruth Brock, SSF Chief Executive

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see your school in the Festival again next year.

Nick Taylor
SSF Stage Director