

“DID MY HEART LOVE TILL NOW?”

Romeo & Juliet
by Milestone Academy
at The Woodville, 15th March 2023
appraised by Lisa Ors

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Milestone Academy for your marvellous interpretation of Romeo & Juliet as part of the Spring 22/23 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a great night at the theatre, and I'd like to take this time here to mention a few things that I really loved!

Your production opened with a strong and focused stage picture of a packed tube train. Your varied, well-held postures perfectly illustrated the idea of the busy London underground and transported us to the modern world of your play. Within this, you expertly created the tension between the two feuding families who occupied either end of the carriage, emphasising the division between them. I loved it when the Prince burst through the centre of the scene to assert his authority and attempt to end the fighting!

I also enjoyed how you were able to find the lighter moments within this tragedy. You created a really fun way to show how Romeo's heart was broken by Rosaline. The parody of Romeo's big romantic balcony speech was playfully directed to the audience as 'blah, blah, blah'. There was also some fantastic interplay between the narrator and the characters onstage, which was super original and fun.

You set the scene for the Capulet's party wonderfully through the use of great movement and ensemble work. The dance was performed beautifully, and then created a maze of people for Romeo and his cheeky friends to weave through. Your costumes were simple, yet powerful, and I have to commend the fantastic Technical Students and Student Assistant Director who contributed so brilliantly to making the show look and sound fantastic.

This was an original and engaging Romeo and Juliet performed with great confidence from a committed company.

We're thrilled to back in a theatre with you again this year and have been so impressed by your commitment, bravery and resilience. We hope that you and your teachers are very proud of what you have achieved.

Looking forward to seeing Milestone Academy in the next Festival!

**“AN ORIGINAL AND ENGAGING ROMEO AND JULIET
PERFORMED WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE FROM A
COMMITTED COMPANY.”**