

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Lily

Watching the most famous, most romantic love story in the world, in one of the most beautiful settings in London, will always be a great memory.

The performance of the two star crossed lovers, Romeo and Juliet, was well portrayed in a modern setting, whilst keeping the traditional storyline and language. They put in modern twists to the performance, like the different props and songs, like featuring songs by Justin Bieber, which they knew would interest the audience. The fact that the actors wore modern clothes and used modern props was, in my opinion, more interesting but was over exaggerated.

The play was very dramatic, which I think made the play more exciting and kept the audience engaged. When there was fight scene everyone was on the edge of their seats to see who the next victim was. When Romeo and Juliet shared a special moment everyone was engaged and you felt like you were involved.

In conclusion, I enjoyed the performance of Romeo and Juliet as I thought it was very well thought out and very clever. The actors were extremely talented and the location was perfect. With the perfect mix humour, drama and love, the Globe's performance of Romeo and Juliet was amazing.

## **ROMEO & JULIET REVIEW**

By Lewis

Romeo & Juliet is the most famous love story in the world. It tells the story of two star-crossed lovers whose families are sworn enemies and spews out some of the most famous lines in theatre history ("Romeo! Romeo! Where for art thou Romeo?").

However, it can feel quite dated in a world of computers, cars and street culture. That's why the guys at Shakespeare's Globe have translated this classic to fit with the next generation. Swordfights to knife-crime, horses to bikes and balls to parties; the play fits well with real-life problems. But the old-timey language has been kept so we can get a feel of Elizabethan England.

The props used in the play were used very wisely. One moment an upturned car was on fire, then the very same car was being used as a dance-floor and then a bed. The use of bikes on stage was brilliant as they were skidding about and performing stunts and small jumps! Music strengthened the blow of the dramatic scenes and made awkward silences more enjoyable. The production was very funny and had a great twist at the end.

Before the play started, a band played modern songs with a jazzy twist and the venue was kept in authentic condition. Overall, the experience was great and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to see a modern take on a classic.

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Emily

The amazing space, the thatched roofs and the clash of old history and a modern re-telling. One of the greatest love stories in the world was performed in the *Globe Theatre*, a brilliant part of history.

I thought that this play was very humorous. It included a modern twist that made us laugh in the most unexpected moments, and the wit that was used in the old English that they spoke was also very funny. I was expecting old fashioned costumes from the original time period of *Romeo and Juliet*, but this rendition of the classic play was put in a modern day setting and used the old English language. This twist in the play really portrayed what *Romeo and Juliet* would be like if it was in this modern day. The props and music used also made us laugh. Songs from people like *One Direction*, *Carly Ray Jepsen* and *Justin Bieber*. The props were very funny, with mobile phones, crashed cars and *BMX* bikes used to set the scene of this modern day re-enactment.

The dramatic aspects in the play of the two star-crossed lovers really brought the play to life. *Romeo's* love for *Juliet* brought on dramatic events, for example the killing of *Tybalt*. The music that was played during this fight was a real expression of the thoughts and feelings of the characters that were on stage. The dramatic events in the play made the atmosphere in the theatre at moments tense and at moments it was funny and very care free.

Overall, I think that this play was great; it had humour, drama and love. It is one of the most famous love stories in the world and I am very glad that I had the opportunity to see a modern retelling of this play, in one of the most famous theatres in the world.

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By James

The intriguing tale of *Romeo and Juliet* portrayed into a modern-day storyline was a fascinating experience. Making the play into the 21st century, by including props, such as mobile phones, and lyrics to *Justin Bieber* and *One Direction*, transforms *Romeo and Juliet* into an entirely new world of how they

can make the story into a realistic scenario. Your eyes would be focused purely on the play and what is going to happen next, and that, in my opinion, is why the audience were more interested in the play.

The atmosphere of the Globe Theatre was certainly unique. The interaction and engagement between the characters and the audience was very good, such as when Romeo got the audience singing along to One Direction; it kept the audience engaged due to the modern effect it had. Without this modern effect, I don't think the play would have kept a younger audience alerted because it could be that they have had an experience with the traditional side of Romeo and Juliet and maybe seeing a different side to it can persuade more students in our age group to take more notice of the Shakespearean story.

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Nicola

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013, year 9 English students at my school, including myself, took a trip to the Globe Theatre in London to witness a live performance of Romeo and Juliet. At the beginning of the play, I was adamant that I was going to be bored throughout the performance and hardly entertained, however, I have to say that the quality and depth of the play really changed my mind.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the actors and actresses - especially Will Featherstone (Romeo) and Jade Anouka (Juliet) - who all played their roles to a T during the performance. Not once did they slip out of character. The surrounding actors and actresses - as well as the two main parts - acted so realistically; you almost felt as if you were a fly on the wall in the genuine story of these two star-crossed lovers.

I also appreciated the modern twist on this classic tale, as it brought the story into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! Gestures such as the characters wearing hoodies and jeans, the mobile phone-inspired introduction and the BMXs used by the characters, really portrayed the contemporary version of Romeo and Juliet successfully. It also demonstrated the idea that traditional tales can be enjoyed and appreciated by the youth of today - myself included.

I am not sure that I can actually think of a way of improvement, the performance was so well-structured and the story was so easy to follow; it was perfect! Well done to everyone who participated in this rendition of Romeo and Juliet at the ever-authentic Globe Theatre - you all did a spectacular job and I would be delighted if I were to watch you all over again!

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Mitchell

**Romeo and Juliet: two people, one relationship. Romeo and Juliet was a great play, it was a play that wasn't only good for the way it was done, but for the traditional love, which caused them to kill themselves for each other.**

**Firstly, the actors were very well rehearsed as they always stayed in character. The characters were very modern. This was good for us because we were attracted to the play a lot more because the characters dressed and acted the way we did. Also there were different sorts of characters. I liked this as there were a variety of performance scenes which suited the character performing at that time.**

**On the other hand, not so much myself, but other people would have preferred for the play to still be in the olden times as this would have matched the traditional ways of Romeo and Juliet. I would have preferred it if there was a mixture from modern to the old times as this would have made the audience laugh and attracted them even more.**

**Finally, I liked how the audience was involved quite a lot, like chucking the graffiti off the stands. Also, the actors came up to everyone in the stands and got involved with them. Also, the actors used the standing audience to get involved. This was very engaging for the audience.**

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Millie

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013, the English department visited the Globe Theatre to see Romeo and Juliet. The experience was worthwhile and the performance amazed me how it was actually possible to deliver Romeo and Juliet in a modern manner. The atmosphere was really fantastic and contributed to the performance.

As the story was delivered in a prevailing way, it was easier to grasp and understand the plot. The viewing in the theatre was traditional and pleasant which I think engaged the audience further.

Even though it was the saddest part, where Romeo and Juliet both died to be together, it happened to be my favourite. It was the section of the play that left me most hooked and wanting to continue watching to find out if that really was the ending or was there going to be a tension-building twist?

I was really shocked after watching it to realise how current the performance was. The original story line, I believe, was kept to well; then again, it was changed appropriately where needed. The characters managed to act in such an excellent approach that the audience were really gripped in the story.

However, I wish it hadn't been as long, as some scenarios were difficult to follow and in some sections, I found myself really having to try to ascertain what was happening. Although the performance was enjoyable, I think I and others would have benefited from the play's length being decreased. I am not arguing that we didn't understand what was going on,

but saying this, I think the audience's engagement to the performance would have increased even more if the play was shorter.

Overall, the experience was wonderful and it was great that we got the opportunity to visit the Globe. By witnessing a modern version of Romeo and Juliet, I really do believe students would look at Shakespeare and his work in a different and more positive attitude.

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Jade

On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013, I went to go and see Romeo and Juliet at the Globe Theatre with the English Department of my school. The Globe Theatre itself was amazing. The experience was very good but also surprising. I thought that the show would be dull and old fashioned but the characters were very modern. I didn't know much about the storyline before I saw the performance, but after seeing it, I now know a lot more.

I enjoyed a lot of the scenes in the play. The scene that I especially enjoyed was the party scene at the Capulet's house because the effects were amazing. The smoke filled the stage as the characters were dancing. I also liked the confetti explosions because it filled the theatre with a burst of colours. I thought that these were very good effects. The confetti and smoke changed the atmosphere of the whole theatre; the atmosphere suddenly became lively and happy. It also seemed to engage every member of the audience.

I certainly enjoyed watching the fight scenes as well, such as the one at the beginning. I was fully engaged and on the edge of my seat. Some of the fights seemed very realistic. I also enjoyed watching the final scene - a brilliant conclusion to the performance - the scene where Romeo and Juliet died to be with each other. The scene was a sad, but an excellent conclusion to the performance.

I liked the stage structure because it meant that everyone could see. I could see everything that was happening on stage well. I was seated in the bottom row at the side of the stage, but the actors were placed on the stage so I could see what was happening most of the time. I could also hear the actors very well and clearly throughout the whole performance.

Overall, I enjoyed all of the performance and thought it was an amazing experience. I would definitely recommend it!

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Jessica

Last Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, we visited the Globe Theatre as a school. I was amazed with how authentic the theatre actually was. I also felt that it really helped to set the scene with the decor, as well as it being predominately open air. The contemporary twist really made the language easier to understand as well as it being simpler to follow the characters throughout the story too.

I thought that the performance was spectacular and I was amazed at how such a legendary play could be made so modern. I felt that the use of setting really helped to portray

this even more to the audience. The use of costume also helped to demonstrate the contemporary twist of this performance. Other props such as the mobile phones and bikes were incorporated to modernise the scenes. As it is a traditional play, you would expect it to be set in an old-fashioned, fairy-tale like manor however, this definitely wasn't the case. Similarly, both versions were based in urban areas. So, this was an element that I identified as a comparison.

The tension between the Montagues and the Capulets throughout was also evident to the original. However, if I was to identify a target of improvement, I would suggest that a minute less violence and more vocal at the start would still have portrayed the rivalry between them but in a more ascetically pleasing manor.

I also thought that the characters were characterised efficiently to their role. By this meaning that both the physical appearance of the actors as well as their use of portraying certain elements of their characters worked well to encourage realism. When I initially thought of coming to see a Shakespeare play, I thought that the language would be quite patronising as we are still yet to study it more in-depth. However, I felt that they broke it down very clearly emphasising certain words and phrases to make it easier for us, the audience, to follow. Therefore, I think those students amongst the audience will feel more positive about studying his work in the future and will not exclude the legendary plays due to the complex language.

I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to witness such a spectacular performance and I feel that it has really helped to enhance both my English and drama skills.

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Amy

On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013, I visited the Globe Theatre with the English Department to watch Romeo and Juliet. I think that it was a very good experience and it was worth going to watch the performance. I was amazed to see so many people there and how the characters were very modern. The atmosphere was very uplifting and made me want to watch the performance a lot more. I think that the whole trip was amazing and was worth going to see.

There were many different scenes that I enjoyed in the play but I really enjoyed the way that the actors presented themselves towards the audience. The actors put in great efforts to perform their scenes and did it brilliantly. When I got the letter about going to see Romeo and Juliet at the Globe Theatre, at first I was happy about going but not overly excited. Although, my feelings changed when I was on the way to the Globe Theatre and when I saw the stage and the atmosphere that was in the building. I immediately got engaged in the performance and wanted to see more of their performance.

I also really enjoyed the scenes' structure as it fit very well and made me also want to see more. I was seated at the side of the stage and at the bottom. I was lucky to see all of the performance and I also got to speak to Will

Featherstone [Romeo] before the performance. He told us what character he was playing and that he was going to be in love with the actor Jade Anouka who was playing Juliet. I thought that it was very nice that he told us and we also got to know a bit more of what he was going to be doing.

The only thing that I did not enjoy was the fact that it was so cold but there was nothing that the actors could do to have stopped this. I think that overall I thoroughly enjoyed the performance and the whole experience of going to watch Romeo and Juliet. I appreciate all the actors putting on a great performance for all of us to enjoy.

## **ROMEO AND JULIET REVIEW**

By Teagan

When I first arrived at the Globe Theatre, I thought the atmosphere was quite overwhelming. Especially with my fear of heights! The performance as a whole was very enjoyable and was a worthwhile trip. I was surprised when the production took a contemporary twist, which made it more accessible to the majority of the audience that were watching and the public of today.

I thought the storyline was really good; it stuck to the original Shakespeare classic, but we were able to understand it through their acting. I thought the actors were all good, but the main characters really made an impact on the performance altogether. If I were to pinpoint one character which I thought made the most impact, it would have to be Will Featherstone, who played Romeo. This was purely because he really connected with the audience and the other characters.

I particularly enjoyed being seated at the front, as in one of the scenes, when the Capulet's held a party, we got the opportunity to throw confetti onto the stage. This made it more exciting for the audience and it also looked very good. I think at this point, everyone enjoyed it, even the people that didn't throw the confetti.

In addition, I enjoyed many scenes that were performed during Romeo and Juliet. When Mercutio was stabbed in a fight between him and Tybalt, I thought that the theatrical make-up they used to portray his wounds was very realistic. I think this made the audience more intrigued and engaged to what was going on. I also enjoyed when Romeo was listening to his music and he made us carry on the lyrics to the song. This really uplifted the audience and everyone was smiling!

The only thing that I think spoilt it for me would be how cold it was! However, this cannot be helped and I appreciate the fact that the Globe Theatre is an authentic setting. Honestly, I was pleased that the performance was really enjoyable and a good day out, as before the trip, I thought that I was not

going to enjoy it at all! I would recommend this trip to others and any other people that are interested in the art of Shakespeare.