

# “SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES”

**Macbeth**  
by Whitecote Primary School  
at the Carriageworks Theatre, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024  
appraised by Emily Chattle

Congratulations Whitecote Primary School for your fantastic reimagining of Macbeth as part of the Spring 24 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a thrilling night of theatre, and I'd like to shine a spotlight on some aspects I really loved.

I loved that you had taken the story of 'Macbeth' and brought it into the modern day, with contemporary language. You effectively re-imagined the story, and were very successful at making it more of a comedy than a tragedy! Everyone in your cast performed with excellent expression, emotion, and character. From witchy teachers, to librarians, to students, and everything else in-between, your performance of each character was amazingly distinctive. You confidently shared 'Macbeth's School Ambition' with your audience in a joyous and fun way! Your physicality as each character was also really good, and you conveyed the emotions of your parts expertly. All the way from the witches, to a struggling Macbeth, and cheeky students, you showed these characters with your bodies and your voices.

I also really enjoyed all of your whole ensemble moments, which sometimes reminded us that 'Macbeth' is a tragedy, even if he's just cheated in the school council election and not actually killed anyone. I particularly loved the corridor scene - your staging in this was super dramatic and really showed us Macbeth's inner turmoil. You worked together to move in unison towards Macbeth, chanting "cheat" really quietly at first then building it up to a shout before running off stage. You were all so in sync with each other and it was such a dark and emotional moment for the audience. You were always working as an ensemble to fill the stage with action as well. I loved that when you voted for the school election, everyone had a different way of putting their votes in the box. In the P.E scene, you weren't afraid to fill the stage up and maintain the action for as long as was needed, which takes a lot of focus and commitment.

You were all such a joyous and enthusiastic company, with an infectious energy. This came through the most when you came together for that final song of "What do I Know". I could see that you were having so much fun on stage, and that meant that we also had fun with you! But it wasn't just the people onstage that were amazing, you also had two technicians running your lighting and sound during the performance. Alfie and Ishmael were incredibly professional up in the tech box and did a fantastic job!

This was a joyous, fresh, and creative production by a dynamic and energetic cast and crew.

We're thrilled to have reimagined Shakespeare with you this year and have loved being with you on your journey from classroom to stage. We can't wait to work with Whitecote Primary School again in the next Festival!

---

**A JOYOUS, FRESH, AND CREATIVE PRODUCTION BY A DYNAMIC AND ENERGETIC CAST AND CREW.**