



## **'WE ARE SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON'**

**The Tempest  
by Curwen Primary School  
at The Broadway Theatre, 14/11/2022  
appraised by Kayleigh Hawkins**

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Curwen Primary School, for your marvellous interpretation of The Tempest as part of the Autumn 22 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 performance had such a lovely opening! It was cheery and fun at first, and then the beat of the sea shanty dropped in and we were on the ship. So effective! I loved your ensemble work with the fabric. The evil laughing from Prospero, the fabulous talking fish, and the brilliant use of a kazoo all made for a fabulous start to this magical story.

The sunbathing narrators were a super fun choice. They looked great with their sunglasses and Hawaiian garlands, and they even had their own theme song! I loved it when they got a bit too relaxed and the ensemble had to take over for a moment - this was such a creative way of getting everyone involved. I really enjoyed how you responded to the action, with the 'Oh nos' / 'Back to present day' / 'Yeah Prospero' etc. It was very funny and really helped us to understand the story.

Some of my favourite moments included: when the ensemble died with the captain and then changed to a brilliant shape upstage; the stomping; the retching in response to the love story, and the rap. I could imagine how much fun you must have had in school working on each scene. Your music choices added even more humour, and Caliban had some great moves! You also found so much drama in the piece. I loved the moment when Ariel was wearing the mask and became surrounded by the ensemble. But then it all ended joyfully, and you had so much fun dancing off stage!

This was a comedic, musical, and charming The Tempest from a very professional 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 Curwen Primary School in the next Festival!

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