



# **“I THINK THIS TALE WOULD WIN MY DAUGHTER TOO”**

**Othello**  
**by St John Fisher Catholic School**  
**at The Key Theatre, 21/11/2018**  
**appraised by Lucy Brenchley**

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to St John Fisher Catholic School for your fantastic production of Othello as part of the 2018 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a brilliant night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight just a few elements that really stood out.

Wow what an opening! You instantly set the stage alive with a pulsating track and dynamic stage pictures that oozed an edgy cool vibe and swagger. Catapulting the action into the 21st Century really enabled us to celebrate this tale as being so timeless, whilst ensuring it felt fresh, contemporary, relevant and accessible for a modern audience. The 'Castle Nightclub' was inspired as a setting and you layered the details within this environment magnificently.

As an ensemble company you demonstrated fantastic commitment to the world you were inhabiting and communicating to us. Movements and gestures so in sync, images beautifully held and your continual presence charged the space with life providing a real heartbeat to the action which married with the soundtrack seamlessly framed the world of this play throughout. The choral chants were enormously powerful, delivered with punch, attack and utter commitment.

There was clear storytelling throughout and great command of the language. Characters bold and confident direct addresses to the audience were truly engaging and all characters had honesty and total believability in who they were and what they wanted.

This dynamic world was a real feast for the senses with many stand out moments that so effectively built the ark of this tragedy to its bitter conclusions. The untimely death of Desdemona was presented with the dramatic weight it deserved.

This was an awesome Othello!

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes courage, resilience, and imagination. You and your teachers should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved.

**I hope to see St John Fisher Catholic School in the Festival again next year!**

**Lucy Brenchley**

# **“THIS WAS AN AWESOME OTHELLO!”**

