

## YOUR APPRAISAL

### ***“Something wicked this way comes”: A truly ‘wicked’ Macbeth!***

**Produced and Performed by  
Barbara Priestman Academy**  
Northern Stage, Newcastle

19 November 2016

**Appraised by Paul Jenkins**

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of Barbara Priestman Academy on their fantastic production! I'd like to highlight a few things from this group that stood out, wowed the audience and made this Shakespeare Schools Festival night an evening to remember.

This production told the story of Macbeth in a thoroughly engaging manner, with a simple drum punctuating the action for the audience.

The cast worked as a solid team throughout their production day to deliver a professional performance filled with exciting characters. The cast's cheerful attitude throughout the day had a positive effect on the whole theatre and the other schools, which really impressed me.

The contrast between the scheming moments shared with the audience and the 'public' scenes in the play were really clear, making us feel like a fly on the wall in Dunsinane castle. The actors gave brave, bold, emotionally mature performances, really capturing the text, and



infusing it with meaning and expression to aid the audiences understanding of the story.

It was clear this talented cast really understood the story and therefore the audience knew exactly what was happening on stage with the help of some outstanding narration.

All the actors shared with us some very clear characters, whether they be noble lords or menial servants, showing their great range of performance skills onstage. These characters were also three dimensional and honestly portrayed throughout which meant the audience were really invested in the relationships between the characters and their emotional journeys.

This was a well rehearsed production of Macbeth from a talented and professional company, it was totally engaging and a joy to watch.

***“It's a significant achievement to do something as difficult and aspirational as perform one of Shakespeare's plays on a professional stage. Everyone who's taken part should be so proud of themselves.”***

**Ruth Brock, SSF Chief Executive**

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see your school in the Festival again next year.

Paul Jenkins  
SSF Stage Director