

The Music Department went to see 'Les Misérables' at the Sondheim Theatre and it was an incredible experience!

Based in the late 18th century the plot follows the life of an ex-prisoner and his journey of making a life for himself after being released from prison. It also explores the first French revolution and the injustices that the lower classes faced. The variety of the characters used (from all walks of life, classes, ages and genders) made the story complex and captivating at every moment. This was translated into the music by each character having a unique style of singing which made it easier to know what was going on but also helped to have a deeper understanding of who the character was. The pieces also often used multiple voices or styles at once. As a Music GCSE student it was very impressive to hear this difficult technique being so seamlessly used.

The staging and costuming of the production was utterly stunning and really helped to bring the audience into the era it was set. The characters would often hold freeze frames at the end of a piece, and they genuinely looked like paintings, which as the musical was set during the Baroque era, drew inspiration from the art of the time. The use of lighting and costuming also brought the musical to life. Much as with the music, each character had unique lighting and costuming to reflect who they were. Also, as the story is based during the French revolution sound and lighting were used to enhance and create battle scenes which created an extra level of drama and tension.

Beyond the music, costuming and stage production, what makes a musical like Les Mis so special and timeless is just how brutally honest it was. The production shows the most raw parts of life: from death to poverty to falling in love and it was simply heart-breaking. I can attest as I was sobbing the full three hours!

The musical was amazing and this event would not have been possible without the help of Miss Mercer and Dr Bonnici who organised the best seats in the theatre and accompanied us, with the help of Miss McLintok. We thank you.

Amanah (11E)

