

&Juliet – Shaftesbury Theatre

In May 2022, Year 10 students visited the Shaftesbury Theatre in central London to watch "& Juliet".

Naturally, after two years locked indoors and school trips being a distant memory (our last trip was to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich - all the way back in Year 7!), everyone was very excited! The year group was split up into four groups and watched the performance on one of four consecutive Fridays.

When I won the Jack Petchey Award, I knew that I wanted to **contribute the money toward** a school trip to treat our year group. As I was researching, I came across a wide range of potential theatrical performances but eventually settled on "& Juliet". Nearly everyone is familiar with the general story of Shakespeare's famous tragedy 'Romeo & Juliet'... but what if Romeo was taken out of the equation? What if Juliet's famous ending was really just her beginning? What if she decided to choose her own fate? What does "& Juliet" equal to? The prospect intrigued me.

As I asked others in the year group, they were equally fascinated. An added bonus was that most of Year 10 were studying 'Romeo and Juliet' as part of the GCSE course and so the play was not only enjoyable, but an educational experience for all.

"I loved it! The play was amazing to watch and was a great twist to Romeo and Juliet, which we are currently studying!" - Irtiza

With the promise of being a 'remixed' version of the most famous love story of all time, this play did not disappoint.

"It's an amazing musical with amazing costumes, a fun plot, and is definitely a good twist to our GCSE play. With songs to create the hype - and the actors having absolutely amazing voices - it was a fun play to watch. And plus, we got to have a good laugh along the way." - Sameen

"Everything was brilliant... it was all totally worth it. An amazing way to end our school trip hiatus!" - Anonymous

The sensational journey of self-discovery and second chances was told through some of the most glittering pop anthems of the last three decades from legendary songwriter Max Martin, including 'Baby One More Time', 'Since U Been Gone', 'Roar', 'Everybody (Backstreet's Back)', 'Love Me Like You Do' and 'Can't Feel My Face'. According to students, 'putting known songs helped to bring relatability to the performance and bring humour/sadness to certain parts of the play'.

Overall, the trip was incredible and an unforgettable experience! Definitely recommended :)

You can learn more and book tickets

here: <https://www.andjulietthemusical.co.uk/>><https://www.andjulietthemusical.co.uk/>

