

Globe Visit



In March 2019, the whole of Year 8 attended a matinee performance of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Globe Theatre as part of the *Playing Shakespeare* 2019 project, one of the longest running education projects. Unlike other performances of Shakespeare's plays at the Globe, *Playing Shakespeare* is the Globe Education's project for London schools designed especially for secondary students to support their study of Shakespeare at KS3 and GCSE level.

We are immensely proud of our students' exceptionally advanced appreciation of the Globe Theatre and the performance of *Romeo and Juliet* at such a venue, as there are many advantages of watching the play in a modern reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe built on the site of the original theatre. As Karis-Joy (Y8) observed, 'I feel lucky to have watched one of history's greatest tragedies [at the Globe]. I learnt about life in Shakespearean times and I felt fortunate to be sitting down, as students from other schools had to be 'groundlings', meaning that they had to stand in the middle, even when it rained!' Many students agreed that the stage was used to its full potential, especially in the balcony scene when The Prince was lowered down on rope from the ceiling. Echoing the opinions of other students Aranie (Y8) said, 'It was an amazing experience. The insides of the theatre are elaborately decorated, with beautiful patterns on the wooden walls.'

Year 8 Woodford girls and members of staff were fully immersed in the thrilling 100-minute performance of the play. Mature in reflecting on their experiences of the play, students praised the quality of the performance and recognised what made the play so special. 'I liked the dancing and the music because it added a modern twist to the play. I also think that the interpretation of Mercutio was very interesting and made the play more enjoyable for the audience because an aspect of comedy was added to the classic romantic tragedy'. All agreed that it was a well-adapted play, using elements of comedy from modern-day life, which made it also easier to understand. Acting was discussed amongst the students who quickly agreed on The Nurse and Mercutio as their favourites. Similarly, students found the innovative use of props exciting: 'The play itself was very interactive, and the props and costumes matched the characters'.

On the whole, there was a very positive reaction to the play, with on students stating that 'it was more interesting than she expected it to be'. We hope that we shall continue the visits to the Globe in future years as this is an invaluable opportunity to widen our students' appreciation and enjoyment of Shakespeare's work.

Ms J Starcevic, English Teacher