

Year Eight Students Visit the Globe Theatre

On the 26th of February, the whole of Year 8 attended a matinee performance of Twelfth Night at the Globe Theatre as part of the Playing Shakespeare 2016 project.

This year celebrates a decade of Playing Shakespeare, one of the longest running education projects in the UK. 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.

All Year 8 students attended the visit, and we are immensely proud of their exceptionally advanced appreciation of the Globe and the performance of Twelfth Night. As they entered the venue, they



were quick to note the advantages of watching the play in a modern reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe built on the site of the original theatre. As Sarayu Bacchu observed, 'Watching the play in an open roofed theatre was really enjoyable because there was natural lighting and we got the chance to see how plays used to be performed in the Elizabethan time period.' Sayini Sutharsan agreed, echoing the opinions of other students when she said, 'This fun and educational experience transported us to the time Shakespeare

lived in.' 120 Woodford girls and 8 members of staff – seated in the theatre's middle gallery – were fully immersed in the thrilling 100-minute performance of the play. Mature in reflecting on their experiences of the play, Y8 students praised the high quality of the performance and recognised what made the play so special. 'Twelfth Night was a well-adapted play, with different genres combined together, using comedy from modern-day life, which made it more enjoyable, and easier to understand,' said Avneet Hunjan-Kalsi. Nusrat Razzaque added that 'the play was well-presented and humorous, even though the language was complex. The actors made the story fun to follow, and they incorporated current trends into it.' Acting was also discussed amongst the students, with Muntashera Uddin stating that 'the actress who played Viola was very good as she portrayed her character's two faces extremely well.' Similarly, other students found acting and the innovative use of props exciting. Jashmiga Mohan commented on how the actors 'used the big box in the middle as different things such as a boat, a jail and an entrance at different times' effectively. On the whole, there was a very positive reaction to the play, and we hope that we shall continue the visits to the Globe in future years as it is an invaluable opportunity to widen our students' appreciation and enjoyment of Shakespeare's work.

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