



Croydon High School

for girls aged 3-18

'As You Like It' - Riveting performance by GCSE Drama Students

Last week, Year 10 drama students at Croydon High School performed their variation of As You Like It by Shakespeare, as a kick-off project to an exciting drama GCSE course. The students loved having their own creative freedom with the script and characters, 'taking the concept of Shakespeare and making it "Croydon High School" style', and being able to lead rehearsals. After practising since September they took it to the stage, for an outstanding performance.



'One of the best rehearsal and performance periods ever!'

Students took initiative to create a concept around the play and make it their own. They depicted delivery workers who were re-living the props. They independently added and improved the script, with everyone contributing. One of the most noticeable differences they made was that they challenged themselves to use ad lib (improvised) sections in the play. The girls said they had endless fun; they added modern subtext with relevant jokes and extra touches like using overly-romantic music during the 'couple' scenes as part of their Brechtian concept.

The students took advantage of the small, Covid-friendly, group to exercise their ideas more freely and work with each part in microscopic detail, as well as using the opportunity to multi-role and, as individuals, understand the play better.



EVERY GIRL - EVERY DAY

4 December 2020

Juniors

Tel: 020 8260 7508

Email: juniors@cry.gdst.net

Seniors & Sixth Form

Tel: 020 8260 7500

Email: seniors@cry.gdst.net

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

The Girls' Day School Trust is a Limited Company. Registered in England No. 6400

Registered Charity No. 306983. Registered Office: 10 Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DH



Croydon High School

for girls aged 3-18

'We had no-one to physically applaud or reward us so we rewarded each other. The energy was just fantastic!'

Playing a huge part in the production was Megan Webber, one of Croydon High's drama A level students with an EPQ in Brechtian theatre, and who spent her summer at a CPD course on directing with the SSF team. Megan used her expertise in tackling Shakespearean language and directing to help the students understand their roles and characters with more depth, as well as giving her input on the Brechtian aspect. Megan helped the team by asking questions to get the group thinking. 'Do you think your character's doing the right thing, or is she actually being quite selfish?', or reflecting on their characters thoughts and unseen feelings to benefit the final portrayal.

'It was great having someone with so much expertise, she really helped us loosen up - we couldn't have asked for a better director.'

The audience response to the online production was phenomenal, despite lack of 'audience buzz' and 'one-time event' feeling. The students' Brechtian interpretation had made the Shakespearean language extremely accessible and loveable, and paired with breaking of the fourth wall and Croydon High's iconic comedy, the performance was riveting. The students, parents and members of the school community remembered it for its depth, artistic flavour, and cheek, and eagerly await the drama department's next event.

'It was brilliant working all together to create something that we were genuinely proud of. The entire atmosphere created, especially after the official performance, was so wonderful and thrilling'

Asha d-S, Y10



EVERY GIRL - EVERY DAY

Juniors

Tel: 020 8260 7508

Email: juniors@cry.gdst.net

Seniors & Sixth Form

Tel: 020 8260 7500

Email: seniors@cry.gdst.net



GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

The Girls' Day School Trust is a Limited Company. Registered in England No. 6400
Registered Charity No. 306983. Registered Office: 10 Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DH

4 December 2020