

YOUR APPRAISAL

"THE WHEEL HAS COME FULL CIRCLE"

A dark and powerful King Lear!

Produced and Performed by
Merthyr Tydfil College

Beaufort Theatre

09 November 2016

Appraised by Tom Barker

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of Merthyr Tydfil College on their fantastic production! I'd like to highlight a few things from this group that stood out, wowed the audience and made this Shakespeare Schools Festival night an evening to remember.

As performers we have three things with us on stage; our voices, our bodies and our imaginations. This production was a wonderful marriage of all three. Embracing both physical and vocal storytelling, this cast created a piece that emphasised the tragedy of King Lear in a very imaginative way.

I loved the soundtrack and choreography that you used. The ensemble movement was well executed and slick, making it a strong element of the performance. The simple but effective design gave you the chance as



performers to tell the story stylishly and take full ownership of the work.

As an ensemble, you made excellent use of chorus work, and your strong focus kept the audience constantly engaged. A moment that stood out for me was the storm scene, when your use of sound and movement helped illustrate the fall of Lear into madness in a brilliantly vivid way.

Thank you for a creative, inventive and tragic interpretation of King Lear.

"It's a significant achievement to do something as difficult and aspirational as perform one of Shakespeare's plays on a professional stage. Everyone who's taken part should be so proud of themselves."

Ruth Brock, SSF Chief Executive

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see your school in the Festival again next year.

Tom Barker
SSF Stage Director