

“BUT I WILL WEAR MY HEART UPON MY SLEEVE”

Othello

**by Thornhill Community Academy
at Barnsley Civic, 29th March 2023
appraised by Lane Paul Stewart**

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Thornhill Community Academy for your marvellous interpretation of Othello as part of the Spring 22/23 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a great night at the theatre, and I'd like to take this time here to mention a few things that I really loved!

You had lovely audience interaction that lead us into your play and ran throughout, setting the tone and concept of your modern interpretation. Your decision to enter through the audience immediately drew us into the exciting onstage action.

You really brought the play up to date using modern day language, whilst remaining true to the original story. You delivered the text with great honesty and emotion, and found wonderful moments of humour and levity throughout. I also thought that your physicality was very expressive – you had some strong movement sequences in which you used the stage with fantastic energy. The additional touches of the mobile phone lights and torches really supported the contemporary storytelling and enhanced your concept of the danger of rumours being spread.

The red handkerchief which was echoed in everyone's costume was a brilliant and poignant touch. The way everyone tracked the movement of the handkerchief across the stage showed a good understanding of stagecraft and focus to make these moments stand out for the audience.

Amber-Leigh's lighting and sound design was extremely effective and professionally operated during the performance, and the confident presence of Taylor as Student Director was lovely to see.

This was fantastic adaptation of this cautionary tale from a dynamic cast.

We're thrilled to back in a theatre with you again this year and have been so impressed by your commitment, bravery and resilience. We hope that you and your teachers are very proud of what you have achieved.

Looking forward to seeing Thornhill Community Academy in the next Festival!

**“A FANTASTIC ADAPTATION OF THIS CAUTIONARY TALE
FROM A DYNAMIC CAST.”**