

# “ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE”

## KENDRICK SCHOOL DELIVERS FIVE STAR PERFORMANCE

### As You Like It

Kendrick School

Appraised by Bethany Appleton



I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Kendrick School for your exceptional production of As You Like It as part of the 2020 Shakespeare Schools Festival, One Night of Shakespeare. Against all odds you have shown the world that theatre can be created in the darkest of times, demonstrating the best of yourselves. It was a wonderful performance, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

I was astonished when you announced at the beginning what a staggering number of students had been involved with the production! I love that you managed to include so many members of your school community in your brilliant performance, and that you really took advantage of a new set of circumstances this year to broaden the usual scope of the project in this way.

I loved the staging of this performance – you were able to create some brilliantly physical fight scenes, and used something as simple as the piece of fabric held up at the wrestling match to great effect, so that these scenes were incredibly exciting and dynamic. You also used levels really skilfully and made full use of your performance space by having characters on the stage and in front of it so that your audience was always interested and engaged.

As you mentioned in your introduction, the world definitely needs some lightness and fun at the moment, and you absolutely brought this out in the play's comic scenes. It was a real pleasure to see.

Every single actor handled the language beautifully and brought some sensitive and intelligent characterisation to their parts.

I thought this was a production that showed a wonderful attentiveness to detail. I loved moments like the shepherds feasting in the woods with their red cups (a delightful contemporary touch), and the lovely lighting and musical cues which complemented the action so well.

All of this is of course even more impressive with two student directors at the helm, who ought to be extremely proud of their creative leadership, resulting in a slick, fun and joyful production of As You like It from an expressive and highly accomplished ensemble.

I am in awe of your boundless creativity, talent and determination. This was the year for experimentation and you rose to the challenge of performing Shakespeare for the camera with bravery, resilience and ingenuity. This demonstrates a great deal of maturity as actors, and innovation as theatre-makers. I know you will look back on 2020 with a great deal of pride at what you have achieved especially considering the challenges you have faced. You all deserve a round of applause and a standing ovation!

**“A slick, fun and joyful production of As You Like It from an expressive and highly accomplished ensemble.”**