

Review from 6th Form Student 28th May 2013

Hello Mike, I came to see your show on Friday with my Mother, Aunty Carol, Mair and Dee and you asked if I'd give you feedback; so here it goes...

The performance was absolutely fantastic. It was powerful, funny, eye opening and it dealt with touching issues; which grasps the attention of the audience very well, with the different emotions throughout. In one of my GCSE Drama performances I included a monologue into the piece, so I know how difficult they are but also how effective they are.

I personally think you should perform to people in college and sixth form because I found the literature very unique and educational. It deals with issues that people in my age group will be able to understand, as alcohol affects most teenagers. Most don't fully understand its full affects as far as "having a laugh". Alcoholism is an illness. It proved to me that tough obstacles face you in life in order to reach your goal but alcohol doesn't discard your worries, it creates bigger problems.

It doesn't help that schools don't emphasize this enough because we're not fully aware of the consequences. We all understand you change once you drink, but we're only faced with these images of being loud, funny and clumsy but we never really think of the selfish, abusive side that alcohol highlights.

Your monologue would be suitable for 15 year olds onward (year 10, 11, 12, 13) - I say this because it shows how to use different emotions correctly in a monologue and how to engage the audience to believe the emotion; these are things I wasn't taught for my work and I wish I was. I genuinely felt quite on edge when you performed "drunk" with a bottle of Vodka because I didn't know what your character was going to do next; smash the bottle maybe?

It's a mature topic which we should be aware of from a younger age. It's not a lesson that you should be afraid of alcohol but just to be enlightened about these things.

I'd also like to bring my friends to see your show because I know they'd enjoy it as much as I did. I would also like to thank you for re-kindling my love for acting because I always forget how much I miss it until I see a performance as good as yours.

I'd like to wish you the best of luck with future performances and I'll most likely come to another show with some friends too.

Best wishes, Sam J

HEALTH AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL

The sub-text of “Just About Ready to Jump” looks at the implications of such human and social behaviours as:

1. Our need to love and be loved.
2. The invisible wall we often build between each other in order to protect ourselves from being wounded or found out.
3. Compulsive behaviour – terminal uniqueness.
4. Parental expectations coupled with a total misunderstanding of generational changes.
5. How some of us are in possession of a self-destruct button and manifest our emotional instability and fear by overt anger or withdrawal into self.
6. How a minority of us (though in my opinion rapidly becoming the majority) need alcohol or drugs – sometimes both – in order to suppress feelings of low self-esteem or isolation.
7. How we are bombarded by belief systems, family ideals and dogmas, often leaving the individual confused as to any sense of self.

The character of Jack Rees demonstrates – often in an amusing way – all the above traits, but because of his driving ambition, coupled with his paranoia, he is not aware that all his manipulations of people and audiences are going to turn in on him and ultimately destroy him.

On the academic side, the play illustrates the incredible perception of some of our greatest writers – Shakespeare, Chekov, Osborne, The Bible and, last but not least, A.L. Kennedy. This is achieved in a very innovative, stimulating, sometimes shocking and non-patronising way. For drama students the after-show chat could take the form of a practical seminar on acting techniques as I am also a fully qualified Drama teacher.

In most schools where I have performed, English teachers have used my visit to stimulate discussion and creative writing exercises using the above seven points.