

“WE’LL SHOW WHAT’S YET BEHIND, THAT’S MEET YOU ALL SHOULD KNOW”

NICHOLAS CHAMBERLAINE SCHOOL DELIVERS FIVE STAR PERFORMANCE

Measure for Measure

Nicholas Chamberlaine School

20th November 2020

appraised by Jessica Moffat



I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Nicholas Chamberlaine School for your exceptional production of Measure for Measure 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.

This was a mature and considerate performance of Measure for Measure. You approached the challenging and complicated themes of this play well, depicting them in a really considered and meaningful way.

You adapted well to the new medium of film and used thoughtful, creative devices to support your storytelling. I was particularly impressed that you chose to mark changes in scene and location with photos, and narration. This was a clear storytelling device that supported the narrative of the production. I loved the use of contemporary music, especially Arctic Monkeys at the beginning which brought the story into the twenty-first century. This is a difficult text and not one of Shakespeare’s well known stories but you made it feel fresh and current.

I loved the simplicity of the retelling of this piece. You did not rely on extensive props or sets, but you really drew us in with your exceptional characterisation and truthful performances. It was lovely to see every actor fully commit to their characters and deliver their lines with such emotions and intent. Everyone had complete ownership of their characters and lines. This clearly showed how much understanding the cast had of the text.

This was an intelligent, thoughtful and powerful retelling of Measure for Measure from a mature and professional cast of young actors.

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 in light of the challenges you have faced. You all deserve a round of applause and standing ovation!

“An intelligent, thoughtful and powerful retelling of Measure for Measure”