

YOUR APPRAISAL

“We are such stuff as dreams are made on”: *The Tempest*

**Produced and Performed by
Primrose Hill Primary School**

The Shaw Theatre

22 November 2016

Appraised by Victoria Sandars

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of Primrose Hill Primary School 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.

The addition of the frame story of the three children at a sleepover who could not sleep, and so told the story of the Tempest, was an epic bed time story! This was carried through into the performance: the characters we met looked as if they were plucked out of someone's imagination. They were larger than life - each performer had a fantastic grasp of their role and really embodied their character through both voice and movement.

Your choices were truly inspired - I particularly loved the creation of the three headed Caliban. The performers were able to portray different emotions with this singular character. In addition, I loved the many Ariels, each representing a different element or season.



I so admired this company for your commitment and passion for the story and performing. Being on such a large and imposing stage can be intimidating for professional actors, but you all rose to the challenge and created a truly magical performance for the audience.

A stand out moment for me was the shipwreck scene. I thought the split stage, with Miranda and Prospero looking out at the audience at the front of the stage with the scene taking place behind them, was very clever. This is a complex storytelling technique to master and you used this to great effect.

This production truly embodied the phrase – “we are such stuff as dreams are made on.”

“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.

Victoria Sandars
SSF Stage Director