



Event: The Riddle

Venue: Salisbury Arts Centre

Reviewed by: Megs Slark

As I sat in one of the front seats of the traditional seating arrangement, I admired the simple and easy adaptable monochrome set. The use of levels was tactfully added into the set, which was added to and changed throughout the show, but a core of two main pieces remained throughout.

The performance followed a group of people with very contrasting personalities through a magical land, solving riddles to potentially earn their freedom. All of the young actors involved demonstrated their talent brilliantly whenever they were onstage, keeping me engaged and astounded throughout. The actors had pulled together all of the props, costumes and sounds needed for their particular scenes, which reflected wonderfully onto the audience as you could tell that they were so enthusiastic about what they were doing. I particularly enjoyed the Fortune Teller's costume in the first scene; I feel it captured the character very well.

Veins of comedy and fear were fed into the production seamlessly (apart from a couple of moments in which I felt an awkward silence, at which point no-body laughed at what it seemed was meant to be humorous.) Apart from these minor happenings, the comedy was really great. I found myself laughing particularly at the interaction between contrasting characters and being freaked out very easily by the clown in the first scene and the Maze 'keepers', or souls that had not found their way out in time. The way they spoke almost perfectly in unison for basically all of their lines was great; it's something that requires skill and lots of practise to perfect.

The show was regularly embellished with pre recorded videos being projected into the back wall, as the actors performed onstage. This added a real depth to the performance which I thought was wonderful. It was an ingenious way of setting the scene and playing back character's memories. Seeing this show has inspired me to be a part of Summer Stage 2012, so if I'm you're not reading my review this time next year, I hope you'll see me in it!

Congratulations to all involved with Summer Stage 2011. You should be proud!