

“SMALL CHEER AND GREAT WELCOME MAKES A MERRY FEAST”

The Comedy of Errors
by Maesteg School
at Gwyn Hall, Neath, 14th November 2023
appraised by Tom Barker

Congratulations Maesteg School for your fantastic reimagining of The Comedy of Errors as part of the Autumn 23 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a thrilling night of theatre, and I'd like to shine a spotlight on some aspects I really loved.

What a great show! I was so impressed by how you took on one of Shakespeare's more complicated comedies and really made it your own. Clearly defined characters and lovely delivery of the dialogue allowed the story to flow with great pace and energy.

There was some fabulous ensemble work on show throughout your performance. I loved the big transitions between scenes - they really gave us a sense of a busy town full of mad characters, setting the tone for the outsiders, Antipholus and Dromio, to arrive. The clever use and delivery of solo speeches and frozen ensemble helped add to this feeling of them being strangers in a new place - very effective!

It was lovely to work with you as a company and see your confidence grow throughout the performance day. Credit must be given to the brilliant work of Jude as student director, and the expert lighting and sound operation of Darcie and Lillie. You all dealt with a last-minute casting change with great professionalism, which is no mean feat! There was a lovely moment before the show when you all came together and cheered for Maesteg School. This sense of togetherness took your performance to a brilliant level. Ilongyfarchiadau!

This was a funny, well told Comedy of Errors from a committed, hard working cast!

We're thrilled to have reimagined Shakespeare with you this year and have loved being with you on your journey from classroom to stage. We can't wait to work with Maesteg School again in the next Festival!

**A FUNNY, WELL TOLD COMEDY OF ERRORS FROM
A COMMITTED, HARD WORKING CAST!**

MAESTEG SCHOOL