

A never experienced outdoor theatre at Cambridge

Rate: ★★★★★

Romeo and Juliet, the immortal romantic tragedy, was played at the gardens of King's College in Cambridge for the Shakespeare Festival. It was a new experience for us to watch a play at outdoors as there was no such activities held in Hong Kong. We thought it was honourable for us to come here, especially when this was the thirtieth year of the Festival. We enjoyed the performance so much that if possible, we will bring our families here in the future so we can share the joy.

The Shakespeare Festival founded in 1987 by Dr. David Crilly and the showcase of this year was Romeo and Juliet. Michael Cummings was acting Romeo was handsome and cute and Jemima Watling whom performed the role of Juliet was beautiful. They all acted humorously at a certain point and were professional despite the weather being cold, they still did their best to finish their play. I appreciated their acting because they acted sweetly and we loved it so much because it let me think the typical teenagers nowadays and they showed a different way to act the play Romeo and Juliet in a special venue and a limited props. For a little improvement, I think Juliet could say the lines more clearly as I could not listen to what she was saying at certain moments and it would be a shame to miss a line of this production.

Next, for the background, it was actually a plain area. With only a table in the middle of the garden, and a pavilion behind it, the actors used their consummate performing skills to lead us imagine it to be different places. For an example, Juliet would climb to the top of the pavilion and pretend that she was on the balcony of the castle. They made use of the stage and made the scenes much more real! This could also let us to understand their play much more clearly.

Moreover, they picked the perfect time for the play too. In the ending and also the climax of the play which was the death of Romeo and Juliet, the day turned into the night. It seemed the scene was more sorrowful when it was dark at night, and with only some small lights decorated at the underbrush to pretend them to be the stars, making their death more romantic at the same time. If they picked an earlier time to start, the play would not be as wonderful as the one we have watched.

Their costumes were suitable to each characters either. Like Juliet having a pure white dress when she was died to represent her holy death for love, and Tybalt wearing dark clothes to show his fieriness... The others were wearing costumes of the middle ages to show the period of time that the story held.

For the actors, I loved Mercutio and Tybalt. Teddy Corbelt who acted Mercutio was funny and he always spur the atmosphere. When he was dancing with Benvolio and Romeo, they made everyone laugh. Other than Mercutio, James Eken who acted Tybalt also acted great. He was handsome. He acted as Paris too. I loved their interact with the audience. For example, Romeo threw an apple to the audience. They made us think that the audience was also playing as a character in this play. However, the play was just almost perfect, but just with a bit

shortcoming. The actors were having spectacular acting, but because of a limitation that they must talk loudly, all the dialogues were spoken in a way of shouting, making the romantic words a bit less emotional.

Finally, we were satisfied for the play as a sum and we recommended that all masses should come and watch as it did worth, especially for those people who haven't seen an outdoor play before. Also, for a kind reminder, you may need to bring your blanket because it may be a bit cold.