

Further Thoughts on Timon

My word, what a fantastic Festival Robinson College has had, in the first half it had "*Titus*" and now it has "*Timon*". The two 'Ti..'s are hard to top in this year's magnificent collection of productions. It is impossible, and unfair, to try and pick a 'favourite production' out of such a varied list, especially as the two just mentioned have the benefit of being rarely performed in general, (and never at all previously at the CSF), on their side as well as their inherent worth. I will say, however, that I would put none above *Timon of Athens*, that's for sure. (I may end up with a multiple 'top-equal', I know!)

I reviewed *Timon* on its first night but I have seen it a few times since then and it has improved even from that excellent debut. There are some things I want to underline that I only mentioned in passing in the rush of feeding back to you my opening night impressions. Given the small cast, the large number of characters and the impossibility of the actor playing Timon doubling, there are numerous characters who have to triple or more. These tripling characters: Alexander Myall, Jannik Archer, Emma Grier, Alice Omanski and Elizabeth Black carry this off so very well. Their different physical projections, accents and consistent-in-character portrayals make one forget they are one person playing many parts. Cap well and truly doffed to you all and for everyone else who 'doubles'.

I also did not make enough of the wonderful Flavius. I feel that Twitterland should be trending "For God's sake just listen to Jonathon Arundel, would you!" Andrew Murton and Tessa Hatts have gone from strength to towering strength, while James Law is perfect as Alcibiades. Overall, the balance and internal resonances are, understandably, even clearer and stronger than on its debut night.

I am going to see it again on Saturday in the afternoon and I will feel desolate when it goes; it will be like losing a friend - no more than that, it will be like losing a big brother who has been guiding me, looking out for me and warning me what life is really like.

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