

Review

Carriageworks: 'A Night Less Ordinary'

February 2009

"A Night Less Ordinary" is a new, nation-wide initiative to get young people interested and involved in live theatre. We at Junior RoCo are proud to be involved in this initiative which covered two events planned during February half term week.

Three Junior RoCo Team leaders were accompanied by 24 Junior RoCo members and relatives/friends to Monday's Carriageworks event.

This offered a two-hour workshop with a professional coach, Jamie Fletcher, which covered a range of acting techniques and warm up routines. The event started with massive game of 'tag' that saw everyone's spirit lifted. Jamie was non-stop in his enthusiasm and delivery taking the group through a raft of vocal, physical and mental activities. A wonderful 'magic box' ended the workshop with the group being able to extract anything they wanted and present the item through mime to the others present.

The group then had short break during which they had a light buffet before receiving a guided backstage tour of The Carriageworks itself. This was wonderfully co-ordinated by the staff who had the three groups of Junior RoCo members reviewing every nook and cranny of the theatre at the same time. The tour covered all levels of the theatre and each aspect was explained thoroughly. I think the sound and lighting booth was a highlight for everyone as they were encouraged to try their hands at the different techniques used in productions. The staff at The Carriageworks must be congratulated for contributing to every detail of the event so enthusiastically.

Also, as part of the initiative The Carriageworks offered Junior RoCo free tickets for the performance of Gawain and the Green Knight on Wednesday 18 February 2009 which was eagerly accepted. This proved to be a really enjoyable event with the cast of four outstanding actors taking the audience back to King Arthur's medieval Court and weaving a tale of bravery, magic, hunting, humour, trust, faith and even love. The event was a great success with those who attended and has given the group a greater thirst for even more live theatre.

We are enormously grateful to The Carriageworks for hosting these events and Richard Bonham of the Carriageworks and Pete Grocock for all of the help they gave us in organising Junior RoCo's involvement.

Linda Nicholson – Team Leader Junior RoCo