

Review

2B Or Not 2B

by Bill Tordoff

Produced by Emma Ayling (Linda Nicholson, Assistant Producer)

Production: May 2010

I think one goes along to a Junior RoCo performance with a mixture of expectation and anticipation. This is their 6th production and so far each one has been different in its style. *2B Or Not 2B* – were we going to see a variation on Hamlet’s play with a modern mobile phone “text-speak” title like that?

2B Or Not 2B is in fact a play written by Bill Tordoff and first published in 1988 and is in fact a take on the Round Table story.

The curtain opens with class 2B displaying all the characteristics of a classroom of pupils with no teacher present on a Friday afternoon: paper aeroplanes are flying across the room and banter being exchanged, or should I say insults. Then order is restored when a substitute teacher arrives and informs the class they are going to do a proper play about knights in armour and ladies in long dresses. Right from the word go, the audience are intrigued and of course amused at what for most people is a situation they can all relate to (some more recently than others!).

Cunning plans by the impoverished knights to “acquire” some beautiful and rich damsels do not quite work out, and the ensuing antics are highly amusing and the young cast acted in a confident manner.

Merlin the magician saves the day and all’s well that ends well.

Each cast member performed well and the prompt, Lorna McGarvie, who also had to read the part of Lancelot due to a last-minute absence, covered very well. The young actors coped with this in a truly professional fashion.

For me what came across was that the cast were enjoying this play. They knew their lines, they could hear the audience laughing and they were having fun. There were over 20 children taking part and although it is perhaps invidious to highlight one person in particular, I think Alice Rayner as Merlin deserves a special mention.

The producer Emma Slater should be congratulated, along with Linda Nicholson, the Assistant Producer, because under their leadership, Junior RoCo are going from strength to strength. They attracted a large audience and could definitely justify performing on 2 evenings next time.

Well done, Cast and Crew, UR GR8!

Sheana Dudley