

YOUR APPRAISAL

**“WE ARE SUCH STUFF AS
DREAMS ARE MADE ON”**

A VIBRANT AND THRILLING PRODUCTION!

The Tempest

**Produced and Performed by
The Academy at Shotton Hall
Gala Theatre**

7th November 2016

Appraised by Martyn Dempsey

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of The Academy at Shotton Hall on their fantastic production! I'd like to highlight a few things from this group that stood out, wowed the audience and made this Shakespeare Schools Festival night an evening to remember.

This was a brilliant version of *The Tempest* with a really unique setting for the play. We loved the idea of the music festival and all the characters finding their own journeys through the festival and life on the island.

There was some excellent work done in bringing the characters of the play to life with your own interpretations. Using several actors to play Prospero was a great concept, and you maintained really clear storytelling whilst keeping the sense of magic of the play. This production felt fresh and contemporary and the cast had a real sense of ownership over the play, which was a really exciting thing to see.



The cast's commitment to the piece as an ensemble was brilliant. It was great to see the actors fully engaging as a company and bringing that festival environment to life. You successfully embodied the energy of the world of the island, especially in your music sequences. And your fantastic soundtrack filled the auditorium with joy!

Your production had a perfect balance of the moments of danger, the presence of magic and embraced the moments of comedy.

This was a really exciting and relevant version of *The Tempest* that gave us a unique setting and had a company working brilliantly together to bring the play and concept alive. You were fantastically engaged throughout, and a real pleasure to work with.

“It's a significant achievement to do something as difficult and aspirational as perform one of Shakespeare's plays on a professional stage. Everyone who's taken part should be so proud of themselves.”

Ruth Brock, SSF Chief Executive

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see your school in the Festival again next year.

**Martyn Dempsey
SSF Stage Director**