

Salisbury International Arts Festival

As You Like It Old Wardour Castle

The travelling Shakespeare's Globe Theatre had set their Elizabethan style stage against the backdrop of the ruins of Old Wardour Castle, with the bright sun shine illuminating the whole area. The audience were waiting in anticipation, close to the stage.

The actors (5 men and 3 women) wore Victorian costume, portraying their characters brilliantly. They were very musical, using instruments including violin, harmonica and clarinet. By using physical and verbal audience interaction, they attempted to make everyone feel empathy. This also was helped by them using props effectively, poetry and incorporating the whole area, including coming into the audience.

This was the first time I had ever watched a Shakespeare production, I really enjoyed it. It was easy to follow the storyline and they acted it so you just couldn't help but laugh, with men dressed as women and women dressed as men, it is obvious for the audience to see but not for the characters.

I would recommend it to anyone who has never been to see a Shakespeare play to go and watch it, as it was so brilliant.

Mark Blake
(Young Critic, Sarum Academy)