

“SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES”

Macbeth: The Fulwell Witches Trial
by Fulwell Junior School
appraised by Beth Punnett



Congratulations Fulwell Junior School for your fantastic film adaptation of Macbeth as part of the 2023 Shakespeare Schools Film Festival. It was a marvellous production, and I'd like to zoom in on some aspects I really loved.

I was utterly blown away by your innovative take on this dark and tragic tale. What a brilliantly clever idea to put the witches on trial. I was hooked from the very beginning, eager to hear the evidence and the jury's final verdict.

Every scene unfolded with great energy and suspense. I loved how you chose to tell the story of King Duncan's murder through a series of flashbacks, transporting us from the courtroom, to the 'cauldron', and the beautiful coastline. My jaw dropped when the witches emerged from the smoking 'cauldron' in their striking makeup and silver costumes. The moment when Macbeth and Banquo heard the first prophecy was also remarkable, and so evocative of the witches' dark magic – I couldn't quite believe it was happening!

I was so impressed by your characterisation. Each of you had loud, clear, emotive voices and used dynamic gestures and facial expressions to portray the changing emotions of your characters. Acting for screen is very different to live performance and can be challenging, but you all made it look easy, and worked superbly well as an ensemble to maintain tension throughout. I was particularly impressed by the jury's reactions to the evidence as it was delivered by the tenacious lawyers – you really heightened the drama of the courtroom.

Your film was expertly edited, and I was astounded by the range of different shots you used. The panning shot of Macbeth and Banquo on the beach was stunning. I loved the close-ups of the crushed sandcastle and blood-stained crown and flag, both symbolic of power and corruption. The animation, voiceovers, and dramatic soundtrack displayed incredible technical skill and made your film look super professional.

This was a thrilling, ground-breaking production by talented and committed company.

Your dedication to creative digital storytelling has been outstanding this year. We're thrilled to have been with you on your journey to the big screen, and we can't wait to roll out the red carpet for Fulwell Junior School again in next year's Festival!

**“A THRILLING, GROUND-BREAKING PRODUCTION BY A
TALENTED AND COMMITTED COMPANY”**