

What was your Opinion of the performance of Frankenstein at Cheam School?

The performance of Frankenstein was performed to Years 7 and 8 by the Watermill Theatre Touring Company. It was performed by two people and also a lady managing the lights and effects. The performance was not identical to the novel and was an interpretation. The book Frankenstein is a gothic novel and is about a monster called Frankenstein named after his creator, Victor Frankenstein.

The main summary of the story is that there is a man called Victor Frankenstein who wants to make life, not really meaning to make a monster. He runs away and gets found by a Sea Captain in the Arctic. This is where he tells his story. The creature created by Victor teaches himself to read and talk but all he really wants is love. He wanted Victor to make him a mate but Victor went back on this promise so the monster sought revenge.

The lighting was amazing in the performance as the Chapel became dark with only a few lights on the actors. The main man acted both the roles of the creator and Frankenstein. What shocked me the most was how much he got into character. This meant at certain points it was incredibly scary. He also had an unbelievable number of lines to learn and spoke them all very clearly.

Another thing that stunned me was the effects they used. The music on flute by the lady actor was magnificent and at certain points rather spooky! They could only use limited props as they were on tour but the props were used to great effect. One prop, the mirror, interested me the most. This is because mirrors reflect what the world sees and every time the creature looked at the mirror he would see a monster on the outside when he was really only a boy inside. When the creature was sad he would cover up the mirror symbolically stating he was trying to cover up what he looked like and wanted to shut it away. Another prop that could be interpreted in a different way could be the bucket of water the man washed his hands with. This could be interpreted as him trying to rub off the bad deeds he had done.

The company really tried to use lighting and our senses when performing the show. At the end, when asking a few questions, we found that the amazing shadows cast behind the actors were not practised or prepared for. As there was only one actor actually speaking, the other did the singing. Mostly the male who acted the creature and Victor Frankenstein used the mirror so that when he was the creature and was killing someone he would hold the light and it would flicker and flicker until it went out. This established that the light was the life, dead when it went out.

The main themes in the play were sadness, horror and how life was being made and a monster was created. It is about nature against technology, should we not just let people die? It is against the laws of life. The one bad thing I think they could improve on would be moving from scene to scene as sometimes there was a long pause between them. I would have liked a few more actors but overall it was absolutely amazing and I learnt so much. I would definitely recommend it and it was a play that you feel very involved with when it is being performed because there was never a dull moment.

Maddie P