

21.03.18

Dear London Bubble's Community Company and Lancaster Millennium Choir,

Uninvited I cast myself in the rôle of Bubble Primary School's "Chair of Governors" watching the school play, and, arrogantly, offer you some "notes".

Well done everyone, actors, director, musicians, technicians, corporately.

I assess your performance according to the OPTRA process, that is:-

Object, Preparation, Transmission, Reception, and Assimilation. For me

OBJECT

1. Your theatre piece clearly achieved its object in portraying a day in the life of a primary school and that came across well to the audience

PREPARATION

2. The greeting of us "punters" <sup>by cast members</sup> started to prepare us for your show and gave us a "warm-up" - in the tuck shop, naming our primary schools, drawing one of our teachers, playing a clapping game, listening to the choir practice et-cetera - all this stimulated our recall of our own primary schooldays. I took time to read all your comments on the hands in the corridor first.

TRANSMISSION

3. From the mime of the premises' officer / caretaker opening the school doors and gates until his closing of them <sup>we</sup> were taken through your timetable for a one whole day, with flashes moving from teachers classroom preparations, to the calling of the registry, lessons, play-time games, dinner ladies, packed lunches, getting medals, like the bringing on of the desk and the dinner trolleys it was fast moving and action-packed from beginning to end with good and not so good personal experiences.

RECEPTION

4. The 'continuo' of the posh xylophone (marimba?) and the choruses contributed to space and time for a more reflective atmosphere. And some of your "one liners" made us laugh because we identified ourselves with the sentiments, ~~and~~ the facial expressions, and the body language. I want to sculpt my "bangers and mash" next time round too!

ASSIMILATION

How about a "Q+A" session on the issues you raise for us at the end? I was engaged with the production especially when it was to the fore-front of the stage and was wanting to be taken on a trip "down memory lane" (for me some 70-75 years back). The project evoked in me many similar scenarios. Thank you for entertaining me, amusing me, raising issues about the significance of primary school education being providing a foundation for life long "learning for living". Brilliant, Bubble! Go for it in the remaining shows. For me and my wife, visually it was a treat. Yours appreciatively, KEN WOOLHOUSE