

Year 9 English Curriculum Visit



On Thursday 6th March Cloughwood Academy's year 9 students went to the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe to watch a production of Willy Russell's "Blood Brothers".

"Written by Willy Russell, the legendary **Blood Brothers** tells the captivating and moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences."

- www.crewelyceum.co.uk

Here are some of the reviews from students who watched the production...

"I went to watch Blood Brothers on Wednesday 6march. I really liked it when Mickey was a kid. I liked the way the actor Sean Jones played him, he made Mickey childlike and I also liked the bit when Mickey was going to shoot Eddie. The main characters where Eddie, Mickey, Mark, Sean. The character who worked the best was Mickey the voice they spoke was very well acted my worst bit was when they spat at each other.

The set was very realistic how they fitted it in the play was very fantastic their house is in the set. In the fields it looked realistic. The effect was very effective and realistic it is based in Liverpool. A crowded family with a single mum struggles to feed the family and is then forced in to giving one of her new born twins away to Mrs Lyons a wealthy family who can't have children of their own. This creates problems as the children grow up because they meet up and become best friends, but are forced apart again when the Lyons family move to the countryside.

They meet up again seven years later and become friends again. Micky loses his job and can't find work so he is forced to help his brother Sammy out and is caught by the police and sent to prison for seven years.

When Mickey finally gets out of prison he again meets up with Eddie but still can't get a job he gets depressed. Linda now his wife is having a baby of Micky's and she goes to see Eddie and Eddie helps Micky out. Micky's depression gets the better of him and Linda goes to see Eddie for comfort.

Finally Mickey finds out and goes to kill Eddie his mum Mrs Johnston find out and catches up with them and burst through the police cordon and shouts "don't kill him he's your brother Micky" but it's too late he points at Eddie with the gun and says so I could have been in his shoes, I could have been rich and well off. As he does this the marksmen see him point a gun at Eddie and they shoot him, and that makes his hand reflex and pull the trigger of his gun and that kills Eddie. Both lay dead on the floor and Linda and Mrs Johnston are distraught. Linda has lost her friend, her husband and the father to her child and Mrs Johnston has lost two of her sons this is a very powerful and sad ending to the play.

This is by far the best play I have ever seen!"

Review by Shaun Higgins



"We, the year 9 group, went to the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe to watch the play Blood Brothers which was written by Will Russell.

When we got there we were able to go to the shop and purchase a drink. Then we started to walk towards the theatre and it was very busy, there were many other schools there that had come to watch the play.

I prepared myself for the show by buying a bag of skittles then we all went to find our seats. We were positioned on the ground floor at the rear of the theatre; I had a great view of the stage. I was lucky to sit next to my mate Cameron who had sat right next to me.

The show started to begin and the first character onstage was Mrs Johnstone who was played by Maureen Nolan. She started to sing a song which had Marline Monroe in. It was funny because there was adult humour in it which I understood. When Mrs Johnston sang "we went dancing" they all started to dance, which really set the tone for the rest of the play.

Having decided before the show I would not like it, I actually thought it was the best play I have ever seen!

Despite the actors and actresses being all grownups they played the parts of the characters as children as well as when they grew up which I thought was awesome. At first the set was an old crowded street in Liverpool it was then quickly changed to a cleaner town street in Skelmersdale. Also I did not know why the man in black stood around the set! Fortunately Mr Brannagan told me that he was the narrator and he informs us what's to come.

The characters got changed many times during the play this was good it helped me understand and keep up with the scenes. After an hour or so we had an interval and we came out and got a drink and a snack. The lobby was crowded with people buzzing with excitement then all of a sudden an announcer shouted the play will restart in 2 minutes, we all scurried around the lobby to our seats like ants returning to the nest.

Out of the blue the set changed to a soft country side. Bravely the Actors and Actresses took to the stage to perform again swinging and dancing around. The loud bangs of the gun props shook the seats like giant thunderous cannons; the lights blinded and dazzled us as we sat glued to our seats in wonder of what was going to happen next. I did here the door open and one of my class mates said "it's the police". I was a bit baffled because no one did anything wrong but the best thing about it that it was part of the play. When micky went to shoot his brother the policemen shouted to him stop and I saw Miss Parsonage jump out of her skin and to be honest I did too! I therefore thought it was a great way to portray the police within the performance as it created a dramatic effect.

Overall I thought this was an amazing play which I wish I could go to see again! The acting was fabulous, and the set was amazing, I would highly recommend anyone going to see it."

Review by Brandon Burrage

Blood Brothers