



### "The Red Shoes": A Remarkable Theatrical Experience

On the evening of Friday, 3rd November 2023, NSTA Talent Reps had the privilege of attending Beaumont School's production of "The Red Shows," under the accomplished direction of Lynsey Wallace, Head of Drama. From the moment I stepped into the room, it became evident that this would be no ordinary school production. The cabaret immersive experience was a delightful blend of humour and entertainment and even though one could argue that it might have benefited from being a touch shorter, the students' boundless energy filled the room, and I found myself immediately drawn into their captivating world. The clever use of audience participation added an extra layer of enjoyment, and by the time we took our seats, we were eagerly anticipating what would unfold next.

The lead roles were splendidly portrayed by Hannah Hassaan, Flo O'Byrne, and Lottie Jones, whose performances were nothing short of stellar. The ensemble cast also deserve commendation for their work, appearing as though they had been rehearsing for years, not weeks. Their cohesion and precision were so remarkable that one could easily mistake them for a professional company.

A few of the other standout performers deserve special mention. Milo Nixon's boundless energy from start to finish and impeccable comedic timing added a delightful layer of humour to the production. Polly Alexander's Preacher was terrifying, in a good way, and Oliver Spooner's talent shone brilliantly throughout the entire production, reminding us of the depth of creativity in the room. While there are countless other names deserving

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of recognition, it is safe to say that every person on the stage was fully immersed in their character, to the point where each of them could have been nominated for an award.

There were some laugh-out-loud moments throughout the performance that added an extra layer of enjoyment to the evening. 'Justine, couldn't escape if she wanted to' was laugh-out-loud funny, and the clever, if not surreal, incorporation of Star Wars, Abba, Dolly Parton, and a surprisingly dark twist on Happy Feet (yes, I know) exemplified the absolute craziness of what I witnessed.

The students transformed a school production into an immersive experience that exceeded all expectations. It was a night filled with laughter, heart, and passion. The cast and crew's dedication, energy, and undeniable talent left an indelible mark on the audience.

"The Red Shoes" was an unforgettable theatrical experience that truly dared to dance to the beat of its own drum. The performance concluded with a rendition of "My Way," and there's no denying that this production truly did it their way.

## **National School Theatre Awards**