

Wimborne Community Theatre

Enquire Within: HOUSE

December 2007 - Audience evaluation summary

1 How much did you enjoy the performance?

Very much 20 Quite 6 Not very much

- I enjoyed moving around the different rooms and it brought alive the history of the house.
- Because it was interesting to have an outline of what the family did and what happened to the house.
- Informative, entertaining atmospheric, imaginative
- Because it was unusual, not what I expected.
- Because it brought the house alive and gave a picture of what it would have been like.
- It was something different and well acted and produced. Too many people spoilt it somewhat, to my mind.
- Atmospheric setting, great use of venue, interesting content.
- It was so unusual
- Interesting to learn about the history of the house.
- Nice to hear the history of this lovely house portrayed in such a way.
- It held my attention continuously.
- The information was fascinating and of great interest to any inhabitant of the town.
- It was different.
- Intimae feel, good use of props.
- Thought provoking; very entertaining.
- It was different, informative, enjoyable and well produced.
- Yes, very much as history is of great interest to me.
- Good and interesting presentation of the facts.
- Very interesting
- Historically interesting
- Well prepared and atmospheric
- Very atmospheric in this historic building.
- Learning the history of a house.
- The confusion of timescale
- Enjoyed the history of the house.
- Informative, lively performance.

2 In your opinion, what were the production's strengths?

- Enthusiasm and authenticity of the cast.
- The way the characters talked
- Fluidity, imaginative, progress through the rooms, audience moving around, performance v good; props and design fab.
- Variety of scenes and moving around with the players.
- Moving about the house. Telling a true but original story. The music was a bonus.
- As above, plus good lighting and audio. Good links from scene to scene.
- Telling the history.
- Mingling with audience
- The music; the children;
- It was done very well.
- The cast and the performance style.
- The inclusion of all age groups and the fund of information relevant to the House and local families.
- A difficult play done well.
- Good mix of history, humour, sadness and music.
- The cast, the venue, gelling of cast.
- Involved and wide range of community.
- Good script and performances.
- The novelty of the concept can surely be used again at many other venues.
- The characters who have occupied the house.
- Good teamwork
- Teamwork.
- Good voices
- Using the house to great effect.
- To move around the house kept it interesting
- The stories; the spookiness.
- A nice mix of ages.
- Clear spoken acting, portrayed the history very clearly.

3 In your opinion, were there any less satisfactory aspects?

- Yes, too many people. I think a maximum of 30 for each performance would make it a more enjoyable experience.

- Too much standing, poor visibility of some scenes. Also need to turn off 'book' audio quicker - it spoilt the opening stairs scene by being too loud/intrusive.
- The acting was under rehearsed.
- A little more rehearsal would make for a more fluid production.
- Maybe a little too long for standing, more chairs?
- Too much up and down stairs.
- Up and down stairs!
- An explanation of narrator's costume.
- Standing
- I didn't realize I would be standing all the time and would have worn different shoes if I had known!
- The gentlemen were a wee bit too loud on occasions - a little more polish at times.
- The presentation of the echoes; i.e. Susie Funnell, although her part was played well.
- Perhaps costumes?
- Sometimes couldn't see what was happening very well.
- I was very confused with the timing of the various re-enactments. More chairs would have been nice.
- Not enough seats, too much stairs.

4 Please tell us why you think it's important for arts events of this kind to take place?

- For local people to learn about the history of buildings and families who lived in them
- Good to involve the community - both people and places.
- To involve and inform local community, to stretch imagination and to develop talents, giving opportunities to work together.
- Because it introduces a different form of theatre making the audience feel part of the production.
- It gets us away from 'canned' entertainment. All live art is vital to our culture and society.
- Because life's not just about work and telly, and to help community cohesion, across ages and talents
- Community spirit
- It brings local history alive and audience participation.
- This production was different and important to keep alive.

- It reinforces a sense of a community with a shared history.
- It gives the population a feeling of belonging and the continuity of life and how we all affect the community.
- Keeps history alive.
- Brings community together.
- Brings theatre to the community. Amateur participation.
- It gives great entertainment to local people at a local venue, at a reasonable price, whilst being educational and different.
- It is very enjoyable way to take into ones memory historical facts that are not common knowledge.
- So we can learn from the past.
- To keep learning about our past.
- A wonderful way of depicting and reinforcing history in which the audience feels a part.
- The history of Wimborne will be lost to future generations.
- To keep the history of an area alive.
- Bringing history alive.
- Without productions like this theater would die. Well done all!
- To get people out from the TV and get involved with the local history and local community.

5 Have you been to Allendale House before?

Yes 72% No 28%

6 Have you seen previous productions by WCT

Yes 38% No 62%

7 How often do you go to the theatre?

Once every 3 months 6 a year or less 5
Once every 6 months 9 Never 3

8 How did you hear about this performance?

From a friend/family 16; Poster 1; Local media 2;
EDDC 7; Other 2

10 What is your age?

Under 16 1; 17-25 0; 26-36 0; 36-49 4; 50-59 6;
60-70 14; Over 70 years 4