



## ***Secrets of the Stour*** **Summary of Audience Evaluations**

Responses from 8 audience members

### **Question 1:**

#### **Did you enjoy the performance?**

Given the choice of *Very much/Quite/Not very much*, all 8 respondents answered **Very much**.

### **Question 2:**

#### **What did you enjoy and why?**

- Being outside in an area so beautiful, peaceful, diverse but usually inaccessible to us all....
- I thought it was a brilliant performance and event. It felt like a live-action, immersive studio Ghibli film, with some really brilliant moments where the landscape complimented the play and vice versa. It was great to see a large audience and I enjoyed the play's physical journey along the Stour.
- It was the second anniversary of the death of my dear husband and in such a glorious setting it made me appreciate our world – and of course Wimborne.
- The beautiful location and the unique storytelling performances
- Enjoyed the location, the actors, script, music, the sets and props.
- Inclusivity; evident enjoyment of the performers; not too long..
- Creativity, Local History, ecology and environmental themes, costumes. I liked the promenade performance style. I felt part of the performance.
- It was the most perfect summer evening which fitted well with the thrust of the play – what we have to enjoy and how fragile that enjoyment is in the light of the climate emergency. I also enjoyed the diversity of the casting – once I got it!

### **Question 3:**

#### **What didn't you enjoy and why?**

- n/a loved it all..... :) (well, if I am being v picky I was a bit disappointed by the use of disposable plastic cups – even though they are 'bio' sadly there is too much greenwashing... we could have brought our own cups had we been asked!).... Happy to chat more about that! X
- I found the first scene a little unclear, but otherwise no complaints!
- Enjoyed everything! (2 people made this comment)
- The recordings on our way back to the car were rather wasted on us. Could things have been planned so that these were being played as we wandered towards the starting point. Perhaps we could have started at the furthest point

and ended at the starting point. Also, I was unsure whether the diary was an actual document

- Nothing. Outdoors setting was inclusive for all.
- It took me a while to realise what was going on in terms of one of the young girls having challenges but that was about me not adjusting quickly enough, not about the play.  
Some of the models – a kingfisher if memory serves – were rather crude but my earlier comment probably applies

#### Question 4:

**How well do you think the play raised issues about current threats to river creatures and plants?**

- Very well, in a thoughtful, beautiful, way
- I think the play did this well without coming across as too 'educational'.
- Pretty well
- The point was well made but not 'in your face'
- I think it raised awareness in an unusual and accessible way
- Very well. I felt very knowledgeable towards the end
- Very much so. Especially for the younger audience
- That theme emerged quite powerfully

#### Question 5:

**What other themes/ ideas might be raised by theatre of this kind?**

- Maybe expanding on what we can all do about the problems it raised...? Would love this to be open to more young people too..... maybe a trip on a boat along the river??
- Anything. It's theatre!
- Mental health issues
- Crops, food production and sustainability
- Ethics of clothing production
- Historical events especially with connections to the present
- Trees and their importance
- The impact of almost any (national / international?) issue on local lives (real or imagined.) Don't get too fanatical though ... that's a real turn-off.
- Family and importance of bonded family relationships.
- The destructiveness of agricultural practices over the last 80 years  
How we mistreat our seas e.g. campaigning by Surfers Against Sewage – not a fragrant issue but a lovely opportunity for promenade theatre.

#### Question 6:

**Have you seen theatre in unusual non-theatre settings before?**

YES 6  
NO 2

**Question 7:**

**How did you hear about this performance?**

**From a friend/family 4; Poster/flier 1; Local paper 1; Website 0; Other 2**  
(Other: Email; Rushcombe School)

**Question 8:**

**Have you seen other productions by WCT?**

**YES 5**

**NO 3**

**Question 9:**

**Male 1**

**Female 6**

**Not specified 1**

**Age range: Under 16 0**

**17-25 1**

**26-45 1**

**46-65 2**

**Over 65 4**

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**Sound bite extracts from Julia's recordings at end of show:**

- I absolutely loved it, all the animals and the weather.
- I thought it was an absolutely wonderful show, a new concept in theatre and very moving and everybody absolutely loved and joined in, perfect in every way, the acting, the puppets, costumes, all just wonderful!!!
- The setting was beautiful – I learnt a lot.
- I loved everything about it, the audience interaction, the nature sounds.
- Beautiful, magical and sharing a very important message in an accessible way.
- A totally new experience – never seen anything like that before , the light was superb, the actors were on point.