

South Wales Leader

Review: Into the East by JM

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Into the East by Dic Edwards made up the first section of a two-part evening of entertainment presented by Spectacle Theatre. In its first act, the moving and dramatic play told how the children's opera, Brundibar, first came into existence in the ghettos of German-occupied Czechoslovakia. In the second act, children from all over RCT performed the musical version.

It was a story about living and dying. Many Jews rode the railway to Auschwitz believing it would leave them to a better life. The four main characters set out to teach us truth, lest we forget.

Gwenfair Vaughan played fourteen year-old Rebecca. As she chewed on the tongue of her shoe to ease the pangs of hunger, you felt that hunger. It was a moving and dramatic performance in which she made you feel guilty for the atrocities that were portrayed. An outstanding performance..

Gwion Huw as her ten year old brother Saul was a typical young boy. Again, this actor played the role beautifully. He tackled the role head-on, going straight for the emotional center as he drew you into his world. From time to time he gave the impression of hope as we came to terms with what history has to teach us.

The second half saw the combined schools of RCT tell the same story through music and verse. As so often on stage, the children came alive and not one faltered. They were magnificent and took to the stage with great ability. Full marks go to the adults who trained them. This was a wonderful performance by adults and children alike in a combination which worked well.

Thank you Spectacle Theatre, for a wonderful evening.