

## YOUR APPRAISAL

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# **“FRIENDS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN...” A SLICK AND IMAGINATIVE PRODUCTION!**



**Julius Caesar**

**Produced and Performed by**  
**Island Free School**  
Medina Theatre

02 November 2016

**Appraised by Tom Mansfield**

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of Island Free School on their fantastic production! I'd like to highlight a few things from this group that stood out, wowed the audience and made this Shakespeare Schools Festival night an evening to remember.

The physicality of the performance, and the use of movement, was really compelling throughout the piece - beginning with the introductory sequence as we listened to the fascist speeches, and culminating in the closing battle scenes.

The ensemble showed superb focus throughout the piece, which enabled you to give a really strong sense of the world of the play, and direct the audience's attention towards the development of the story.

Your sense of characterisation was really strong throughout. The relationships between characters were very clear and well-thought-through, and you used the language really effectively as a way of not only communicating information but as a form of building character.

I would also like to commend you for such an imaginative re-telling of this old story. It meant your play really resonated with a modern audience. This was a gripping, thrilling Julius Caesar from a committed and focused company of young performers.

**“It's a significant achievement to do something as difficult and aspirational as perform one of Shakespeare's plays on a professional stage. Everyone who's taken part should be so proud of themselves.”**

**Ruth Brock, SSF Chief Executive**

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see your school in the Festival next year.

**Tom Mansfield**  
**SSF Stage Director**