Culture Development & Events Services

Knowsley Registrars

High Street, Prescot L34 3LD

21st April 2021

Letter of Support TO ACE for Rubbish Shakespeare Company

Knowsley Council’s Culture Development and Events team commissioned the Rubbish Shakespeare Company to create four bespoke productions for digital use in August through to November in 2020 in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and to keep the arts alive.  The commission was part of the Arts Council England funding to increase participation in arts and culture in Knowsley’s libraries.

As restrictions were lifted, in early August of 2022, the company filmed four well executed short stories using local parks and beaches in Merseyside and expertly brought to life the stories of Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream,  Antony and Cleopatra and Macbeth.  These films were streamed live via Knowsley Libraries facebook page and received excellent reviews and good audience figures with Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night’s Dream receiving 2,900 views, Antony and Cleopatra at 2,200 and Macbeth at 2,400 at final count.  These audience figures surpassed any live performance held in a library and had the highest library videos views ever recorded. The performances also attracted new audiences with many families coming together to watch.

The Antony and Cleopatra production was targeted at primary schools in Knowsley as well as general public and resulted in 10 schools watching the performance live with many more watching after. In total more than 400 children enjoyed the digital experience of this one production.

We received many positive comments from teachers and public including:

‘Never seen the class of 30 children so quiet, they were all enthralled!’

‘Children were mesmorised and captivated by the very engaging production of Shakespeare presented in humorous way’

‘Great to see Knowsley Council keeping the arts alive’

‘Excellent production, really engaging and thoroughly enjoyed by all the children watching’

‘Brilliant performance, thoroughly enjoyed it’

Social media played a huge role in spreading the word about the performances and it was lovely to see our relationship manager Clancy from ACE supporting the project with tweets and comments.

It was evident that all the performances were produced and directed with strong imagination, humour and were accessible and easily understood and great at entertaining families and children.

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