


Company	Pump House CYT	 <p>National Theatre connections</p> <p>show report</p>
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Assessed Play	Scary Play
Assessment Date	29 th March
Partnership Theatre	LONDON Hampstead Theatre
Assessor	Nick Hutchison

The Venue

Pump House Theatre is a very well appointed small theatre, wide stage, tabs, good lighting rig, proper lighting box, raked seating for about 140. Stage at floor level, allowing for a wide and quite deep acting area. A very versatile and useful venue.

The Administration

As always at this address, efficient and welcoming. All directions etc were sent in good time, and everything at the venue was pleasant and hospitable. A pleasure to assess.

The Production

I really enjoyed this show. I thought the young cast had a very firm handle on the piece itself, and they had a very mature sense of stagecraft...the pacing of the show, and the comic timing, were of a very high standard, and all the principals really knew how to hold a stage. I felt the play lost some momentum in the middle section in the house, partly I think because the size of the stage diffused the energy a little, but they regained the momentum for the last scene.

There were some genuinely funny moments, and at least one genuinely scary one, when the Man first appeared with the monkey. The story was told with energy and clarity and total commitment from the cast, and I thought it was a very successful show. They should perhaps look at the concentration, and some of the blocking, in the scenes with the Man and Monkey in the house...I felt it all got a bit too far stage right and became a little crowded, rather than claustrophobic, but overall, I think this was a pleasure to watch. My congratulations.

Set & Costumes

The set was commendably simple, with some suggestion of walls for the specific rooms, and a house facade stage left for the door to the scary house. The turn round from Kal's room to the scary room was simple but effective, and although there were a few problems with the tabs, and with the door slam, this really did not detract.

The costumes were simple but effective; I particularly liked Monkey and the scary clowns; good make-up too on all of them and the vampires.

Lighting

Simple but effective; good use of the 2 separate areas. I felt it might have gained from more specificity in the exterior scenes outside the house, which was a bit of a broad wash, slightly diminishing the sense of menace.

Sound & Special Effects

Effective, especially the creaking door and slam (with one miss!)

Health & Safety

No problems I could see.

The Company Themselves

A delight to talk to; they were all thrilled to be part of the program, excited that I was there, and enthusiastic to talk about their experience of the piece. Despite some last minute recasting through injury, they seemed a very tight unit, and were united in their enjoyment of the piece. I got the impression that they felt their opinions carried weight in the rehearsal process, and they made some very pertinent and well argued comments on the writing and how they felt it mirrored their view of life. There was a real commitment to the play, and to working in front of an audience, and I felt they were all gaining a lot from the experience. I really enjoyed meeting them.

Level of Support for the Company

Very high; I was introduced to the Chair of the Theatre Company, and to several other members, and all were excited and enthused about the show. I've been to this venue before, and find it to be a really exciting and dynamic theatre group, keen to cater for all ages and to really let the young adults learn about drama, and through that, about life.

Performance Number	Total Number of Performances	MA Programme?	Number of Sessions
2	2	No	15+

Total number of...

Young People Performing	Other Young People Involved	Adults Involved	Audience (over entire run)
17		2+	80 on my night