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The
McAuley
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
DONCASTER

Free too

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'Freedom' according to the catechism of the Catholic Church is;

Freedom and Responsibility

1731 Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life.

"Shut up, I'm Dreaming"

The National Theatre schools tour, 2023, came to McAuley this week performing and then answering questions from a packed theatre made up of Y10, 11, 12 and 13 students.

The devised piece, performed by an ensemble of 8 actors, explores the hopes and dreams of young people in an uncertain world through an eclectic combination of movement, dance, music and audience participation.

The Pappy Show is a physical theatre company which aims to platform marginalised identities and create diverse, joyful and collaborative productions rooted in the lived experience of their performers, bringing people together to move, dance, create moments of radical joy and share stories.

Kane Husbands, Director and Founder of The Pappy Show said, "This new production, is a bright, brave response to our time. The research alone has been an incredible journey and we have been so inspired by how this next generation – our future change makers and leaders – have responded to us. At a time where we feel creativity is being removed from the curriculum, we believe taking performance and theatre directly to young people can inspire and make us dream of more, see things differently and connect us to our feelings. I hope we can inspire young people across the country to walk into and lead BIG Lives and to keep dreaming... their whole life."

Shut up, I'm dreaming was a vastly different style of play to what we usually see in theatres, uniquely exploring the hopes and dreams of young people in the modern world. The performance shared real personal school experiences, retelling varying stories of humiliation, grief, and friendship, which to a school audience made it that much more relatable and moving. I think that by creating a space for young adults to bond over similar experiences we all share, the play had a very raw and honest feel unlike many others.

Connie, Y11

'Shut up! I'm dreaming' told a fantastic story of young people's beliefs and experiences of school life, as well as detailing the dreams of these young people. Personally, I gravitated towards how the performance inspired young people to be who they are and to not get lost in the crowd of what is considered 'normal'. The play perfectly showcased how young people have the freedom to 'dream big', aspiring for greater things in life, despite the possible rough experiences that one has in their early life.

Thank you!

Mackenzie :) Y13

It was an incredible performance. Intense, overflowing with emotion and challenging. It made me smile, then laugh. It made me frown, made me angry and I silently shed a tear (or two).

It made me consider my time at school and the things that I buried deep. It asked me questions about the impact I have had as a teacher and Headteacher on the many young people I have met and those that I couldn't reach because I didn't know enough about how to reach them.

It is a question, I know, is in very many people's hearts.

God Bless
JohnR