



War Horse Report

At the New London Theatre there has always been good quality acting, so when I heard about War Horse, I had to go and see it. Although I wondered how they would have a horse on stage, if it would be puppetry or humans, when I found out it would be puppetry, I didn't know what to expect. It would either be really spectacular or nothing at all. But it was nothing like I had expected. The puppets were not like real horses but their movements and their structure were so believable that I didn't even notice the puppeteers. They worked as a team and their movements were so precise it was as if they became the horse. The Handspring Puppet Company are officially number one in my book as puppeteers go, and I will definitely be seeing something from them again.

The moving tale of a young master Albert and his horse Joey, who he sells to an English colonel, tells the story of how the bond of friendship can still keep going no matter how bad the war is. Joey gets stolen by a German soldier and is forced to work for the Germans. Soon the German man disappears and Joey is left to perish in No Mans' land, but the power of Albert's friendship with Joey is so strong it ensures that they will be reunited.

The acting was outstanding. Kit Harington who played Albert, was one of the best stage actors I've ever seen. The passion in his voice made the story even more moving and he paid so much attention to detail in the way he walked and talked and in all his body language that he became the character. In the beginning he treats the horse with love and care as if he's his best friend, and then at the end when he reunites with his horse, it's so emotional because he's built up the bond throughout the whole story, and his exceptional acting mixed with the realistic and subtle movements of the horse, makes the play extremely moving and lifelike.

I also really liked Albert's mum. She was very dramatic and passionate. If I were to be War Horse I would want to play her.

The stage lighting was also very good because it focused on the main part of the story and whoever was speaking at the time. It was also used to create very realistic effects such as when the colonel is galloping on his horse through a storm, and helped to make the story more dramatic.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the War Horse and I would recommend it to anyone from the age of 7 to 107!