



War Horse Review

Michael Morpurgo is an inspirational writer and one of his earliest books has now been performed to an amazing standard at The New London Theatre. This is a story about a young boy called Albert whose father won a horse at an auction. It opens out into an epic adventure of when the horse (Joey) gets sold to the yeomanry cavalry division and Albert desperately joins up to the army in hope of finding Joey. The puppets (done by the Handspring Company) are spectacular, using the same emotions and actions as a horse. The technical effects are also amazingly performed using fantastic lighting and spectacular sound effects, with the projector showing a strip of the book at necessary times. The music has a vast range of songs, although most of them are folk songs. The folk singer, John Tams, sang and composed some of the songs and Adrian Sutton wrote some of the background music, which fitted with the changing emotions in the play. Angus Wright (the warm-hearted German officer) proved himself - performing amazingly well. Overall this was one of the best plays I have ever watched. This is just as good as any film and I would say it is one of the best performances I've ever seen in England. Here are some references:

**“War Horse: Horse play is no puppet show.”
The Daily Telegraph**

**“The joy of the evening, however, lies in the skilled recreation of equine life and in its unshaken belief that mankind is ennobled by its love of the horse.”
The Guardian**

**“Exhilarating, it makes you rejoice to be alive.”
The Times**

**“An astonishing piece of theatre.”
Time Out**

**“Warhorse is a galloping winner that pulls at the heart strings.”
The Daily Mail**

As you can see Warhorse is clearly among the top plays in Britain at the moment. One of the scenes involves ducks, chickens, and geese. They mixed this scene with happiness, sadness and humour. Robert Emms (the horse-loving boy, Albert) now has an amazing reputation doing amazingly, and the emotions he caused were thrilling as he searched for Joey and going into the dangerous realms of World War 1. Overall this is one of the best performances I've ever seen.

**Luke Hatteland-Dunn
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