

Lebendiger Englischunterricht: White Horse Theatre und Kinonachmittag am WHG

Am 27. November war an unserer Schule das White Horse Theatre zu Gast. Für die Schülerinnen und Schüler der Mittelstufe stand das Stück „Sticks and Stones“ auf dem Programm, dass sich mit dem allzeit relevanten Thema Mobbing auseinandersetzt und dabei auch die Gefahren von Cybermobbing in den Blick nimmt.

Die Oberstufe durfte ein besonderes Highlight erleben: Die Inszenierung von F. Scott Fitzgeralds gesellschaftskritischem Roman „The Great Gatsby“ brachte das Lebensgefühl der Goldenen Zwanziger auf die Bühne und überzeugte durch schauspielerische Leistung und Bühnenbild. Fazit der Schülerschaft: Die beste Theaterinszenierung, die wir je am WHG hatten.

Für die Kleinen gab es diesmal Kino statt Theater: Bei einer Auswahl aus „Pets 2“, „Peter Rabbit“ und „The Spiderwick Chronicles“ war für jeden Geschmack etwas dabei. Popcorn und Tortilla Chips rundeten das Kinofeeling ab. Auch hier war das Fazit: „Das wollen wir wieder machen!“

Wer sich ein genaueres Bild von den beiden Theateraufführungen machen möchte, findet hier noch zwei Rezensionen unserer Schülerschaft:

The Great Gatsby – A dazzling trip into the Roaring Twenties

America, the 1920s – an era characterized by glamour, excessive parties, new wealth, exuberance and economic growth. The White Horse Theatre's play "The Great Gatsby", based on the novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald from 1926, is set in the heart of this time. In a very spectacular and surprising way, the play explores the illusion of the American dream and how the pursuit of wealth, social status and romantic ideals can lead to emptiness, moral decay and shattered hopes. From the beginning, the play felt modern, lively and full of energy.

Nick Carraway, from whose perspective the story is told, moves to New York right next to Jay Gatsby, who is deeply in love with Daisy Buchanan, Nick's cousin. She is already married to Tom, an arrogant and racist man, who is secretly cheating on his wife. With the help of Nick, Gatsby finds back to Daisy, and his obsession with her grows until it leads the characters into a net of illusion, desire and tragedy.

Despite the fact that there were only four actors who had to portray seven characters by changing outfits all the time, they did a great job bringing these characters to life: Gatsby appears mysterious, charming, but also a bit insecure. Nick is presented as a calm narrator. Daisy is enacted in a soft and emotional way, showing her inner conflict. And Tom, her unloyal husband, clearly shows his dominance, aggression and intolerance. Even though the actors had different accents, they were relatively easy to understand.

The stage was simple, but it was used creatively so that every location could be easily recognized. The decoration, the props and the costumes, inspired by the fashion of the 1920s, created a Gatsby atmosphere, which was intensified by the light effects used during the party scenes.

In conclusion, the performance was entertaining, emotional, at times funny, and probably the best play of the White Horse Theatre I have watched so far. For students who enjoy dramatic stories about love, dreams and problems behind a rich lifestyle, this play is a great choice. Even without knowing the novel, you can enjoy and understand the story very well and feel the vibe of the Roaring Twenties.

(Diego Dornsbach, Melinda Elsner, Paula Dittes, Klassenstufe 11)

“Sticks and Stones – A Powerful Play About Bullying and Social Exclusion”

On 27th November, the White Horse Theatre visited the WHG and performed “Sticks and Stones” for grades 7–9, a play dealing with topics such as bullying and social exclusion.

The story is divided into two separate parts. The first part focuses on Tony, a boy who is bullied by a group led by Lauren, a powerful and respected student. Because of her social status, nobody dares to criticise her. Tony repeatedly tries to get help, especially from his father, but he is dismissed and told to “man up”. Unable to escape the bullying, Tony takes extreme measures that finally lead the bullies to reflect on their behaviour.

The second storyline is about Ruth, who is new at school and dreams of becoming an influencer. She is bullied by a group led by Jim Jarvis, who mocks her appearance and ambitions. When Ruth asks a teacher for help, he dismisses her, which worsens the situation. But why is Jim a bully? And what are his motives? These are questions addressed as the story proceeds.

In my opinion, the play was very emotional and realistic. It clearly showed the effects of bullying and the importance of speaking up as a bystander. The actors convincingly portrayed fear, anger and grief, which made the audience feel empathy for the victims.

Overall, Sticks and Stones is a powerful and important play that encourages people to reflect on bullying and its serious consequences.

(class 9a)