

Report from NODA representative:

A CAPER THROUGH SHAKESPEARE. Tavonians Theatre Co. Buckland Abbey. 17th June 2012.

Director. Natasha Buckley. Written by. Jayne Newton Chance. Sally Reid. Kit Walkham.

As part of the R.S.C. Open Stages project the company commissioned three in house professional writers to come up with a Shakespearean experience out of the ordinary, and how well they accomplished the brief. Running between Shakespeare leaving his wife and family and then turning up in London seven years later. The company, Alias The Troupe of Dreamers took us through those lost years with Shakespeare remaining mute but all the time scribbling observations and listening intently to the drama and comedy going on around him aided by Dogsboddy. The numerous quotes from the plays and the sonnets gave the audience enormous pleasure. As the caper moves on the Troupe enter a competition to perform before the Lady of Buckland Manor and gain employment for a year. I can not praise the performers highly enough, many playing multiple roles moving seamlessly from one to the next. Obviously performing in the great Barn at Buckland was particularly atmospheric although originally intended to be in the open gardens the inclement weather prevented that. All the cast entered into the spirit of the times and I must compliment them on the very authentic costumes. Played almost in the round with a minimal set, excellent lighting made up for that. The denouement happened when Shakespeare is hit on the head, presumably with the skull of Yorick whereby he regains his speech. This was truly a wonderful and professional production and I thoroughly enjoyed it.