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As you like it: Phoenix theatre performed Shakespeare's drama at Oberstufengymnasium

von Adrian Hennig, Johanna Hoffmann, Emma Mosebach am 14.02.2018

On the 12th of February in Eschwege...

A man almost got strangled to death by a green snake.

He was saved.

His saviour wanted to kill him.

He then got attacked by a lioness.

His saviour saved him again.

Eight people got happily married.

An old man got close to dying by exhaustion.

The audience laughed a lot.

That Monday the two British actors Ben and Stephanie from the Phoenix Theatre came to our school performing their own take of Shakespeare's drama „As you like it“. They changed it into a funnier and easier to understand version of the classical play. Taking that thought a step further they even involved the audience in their play by picking students and giving them a costume and instructions.

Both the students and the two actors were awesome at taking on different roles or even a different gender. To give life to their performance they creatively used simple requisites such as a spray bottle to resemble rain.

Although Shakespeare's style expression isn't always easy to understand they completed the plot by making great use of mimics and gestures and also common language and a clear pronunciation. Though at first seeming embarrassing for most students, the enthusiasm and encouraging way of the two actors sparked the excitement of the whole audience. At the end of the play all actors earned great applause.

The Phoenix Theatre offers a great variety of partly historical plays especially designed for younger audience of non-native speakers. They aim to inspire students and help them getting on with classical dramas and improve their English skills.

Special thanks to Ben and Steph for coming to our school and for engaging in a vivid conversation after the drama was over.



phoenix_thea_.jpg Foto: Katharina Gatzemeier



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