

Isobel Elsey, drama review

I saw a production of Peter Pan at the Olivier Theatre in April, and I found the whole experience fairly exciting, as the theatre was beautiful. The overall play was about Peter Pan and the Lost Boys who were a group of children who had no parents, and lived in a magical land called Neverland. They never wanted to grow up, and wanted to defeat their nemesis Captain Hook. It is based around Wendy who was persuaded to go to Neverland by Peter Pan.

I found the atmosphere was easily shown by the lighting and sound. The lighting changed colour depending on the scene, like when Peter Pan was in danger, the lighting went blue and when a fight was commencing, the lighting would go red. The live band gave the play an extra element, because like the lighting changed colour, the music changed speed depending on the scene. I enjoyed the revolving stage as I think it made scene changes much quicker and smoother. The actors used aerial arts to show them flying, and I think that made the play exciting especially for younger audiences.

The children were played by adult actors, and although they portrayed children well by changing the pitch of their voices and wearing childlike clothes, I personally found it hard to look past as the general theme of the play was about the children not wanting to become adults. I also found the singing distracting to the storyline and sometimes I could not understand the lyrics they were singing.

I think that Captain Hook (who was played by a woman even though in the book Captain Hook was a man) would be fairly scary for younger audiences, which would have made the play even more exciting. I also found Tinkerbell funny, and he was played by a man despite being a woman in the original film and book, and he talked gibberish.

Although I enjoyed the overall experience, I think it would have been more suited to younger audiences and they might appreciate the singing, flying and storyline more than I did.