Our Day Out

**Reviewed by:** Christine Hunter Hughes on Thursday 29 March 2012
**Venue:** Pyramid Arts Centre, Warrington
**Type of Production:** Play
**Producer/Director:** Kit Phillips
**Musical Director:**
**Choreographer:**

Show Report

A tender-hearted, if slightly awkward, tale of a group of disadvantaged kids from Liverpool on a school outing to North Wales. Mrs. Kay teaches a remedial class called the "Progress Class", and the whole class along with two slightly older class bullies who used to be in the Progress Class - are taken on a coach trip. At the last minute, the Headmaster commissions Mr. Briggs, the authoritarian Deputy Headmaster, to supervise the trip. The story begins as a noisy celebration of teenagers free from school for the day. By the end, it becomes darker and more unexpected. These no-hopers from the Liverpool backstreets are reminded of their depressing current situation and even bleaker future leading to the stark realisation that a day out is about as much as they can expect.
It was played to a plain black curtain set, with plastic crates as the only prop. The lighting was quite simple but effective. The sound balance was not always all that it could be and we did miss some lines when the audience laughed and the cast did not quite ride the laugh out.
The music was canned – so there was the inevitable ‘wait’ for the music to start – which in this production was a real shame as the cast worked so hard to maintain a really superb pace.

However, what really drives this show is the enthusiasm, energy and talent of the cast and this group had it in bucket –loads. The cast had been well directed so that the show had no ‘stars – or major principals’ but every single member of the cast worked hard to produce a piece of real theatre. They carried the almost capacity audience every step of the way making us laugh and cry and sympathise - with some excellent and totally believable characterisations.
I feel sure I speak on behalf of the whole audience when I say congratulations to everyone connected with this production for a most entertaining and enjoyable evening and thank you for all that energy and enthusiasm. One a personal note – thank you for such a warm and friendly welcome and for your kind hospitality and I very much look forward to visiting you again in the not too distant future.