

**STRANGE
TOWN**



STORM LANTERN

by **Duncan Kidd**

TOUR REPORT

STORM LANTERN:

Performed in

15

from Sept to Oct 2022

11 City of Edinburgh Council schools

4 independent schools in Edinburgh

One performance was cancelled due to the death of the Queen.

There was one sold out public performance at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.



An **information pack** for the production was created and sent to all the schools - available on request.

SCHOOLS

Broughton High, Castlebrae High, Craigmount High, Currie High, Drummond Community High, Mary Erskine's, Forrester High, Leith Academy, Merchiston Castle School, Stewarts Melville, Royal High, Trinity Academy, Queensferry High, George Watson's College & Wester Hailes Education Centre.

900

people saw a performance of *Storm Lantern* from Sep - Oct '22 including 99 at the sold out public performance at the Scottish Storytelling Centre

Total number of secondary school pupils who saw a performance of *Storm Lantern*

800

Number of teachers who watched a performance

45

Largest audience

100

Smallest audience

14

Post show discussions with the 'Storm Lantern' company and pupils took place in 10 of the schools and after the public performance.

Employment was created for 11 people: **1 producer/director, 1 writer, 1 set & costume designer, 1 lighting designer, 1 sound designer, 1 director, 3 actors, 2 stage managers and 1 assistant director.** For two of those employed this was their first professional engagement.



STORM LANTERN is the first play commissioned by Strange Town as part of 'The Future is Unwritten', a three year programme of new plays for secondary schools which is funded by Thrive Edinburgh.

FEEDBACK:

From the Schools:

I really enjoyed *Storm Lantern*! The set was incredible! So simple yet it really conveyed the themes well and was very practical. I'd love to see *Storm Lantern* again!

As a theatre student the set was very detailed, the sounds were very engaging (including the speeches by Hitler), overall the acting was very good.

It is very interesting to see a different point of view for German people in WW2 and is very important that we know that German people were not all for the Nazi party. And it was very sad to see how some German people were treated for speaking out against Hitler.

The show was very entertaining, and it was very interesting to learn about parts of the war that we don't get taught in school. I thought the staging was really cool.

It was very interesting and very engaging and showed how young people have more power than they think and that even the smallest action can make a difference. And the simple staging made it really easy to follow with all the flashbacks and split stages.

A moment we believed was impactful and effective was Sophie's death off-stage where the lighting and sound made the death feel real.

The actors were incredible, really convincing.

Everything ran so smoothly, the transitions between scenes was really good and made me think about how I would do that in my own dramas.

Enjoyed the post show chat, especially learning about the role of each member of the company.

Made me realise there was a different way to present drama other than moving the set and using a blackout every time.

My teacher cried!

I'm grateful and appreciate that Strange Town could come into the school and put on a play for us. It was very detailed and it felt like we were in a theatre. The set they made is amazing, it was so cool to see our studio transform into a type of theatre. The post show chat with the cast and crew helped and they answered all questions in detail which helped to understand each role that everyone played. And the crew's description of their roles and their journey of becoming the stage manager, sound and lighting people, writer, director was very interesting to see which path they took. The story they portrayed throughout the performance was incredible and even though I hadn't heard of it before I felt like I knew the story during the play.

I really enjoyed it. Being able to see a play in school and not having to make a special trip or pay money was really convenient and fun. It gave me something to look forward to and was very enjoyable.

I thought the play was amazing and I enjoyed it a lot, I loved the set and thought that it really connected to the story it was really clever as it emphasises that they are in jail cells; the audience is able to imagine the rest of the people who have been arrested.



Feedback from the public performance

Portrayed the story through the silences. Absolutely incredible actors. So lucky to have seen them in their early days!

I loved it, very powerful, great performances, more moving than a lot of things I've seen recently. Just ****ing brilliant.

Wonderfully resonant play for our times – fantastic acting, staging, set design, sound, direction. Just a beautiful thought provoking piece making us all question if we would be as brave as Sophie. Bravo!

A great show with a strong message that shows the inner conflict felt by people of Germany at the time.

INCREDIBLE! Loved it so much! The performances were incredible along with the lighting and stage arrangements. The fact that there were only 3 actors had such an incredible effect on me and the audience.

Cast and crew absolutely smashed it. I was invested in those characters till the end. Great show.

What a moving, urgent and important piece of theatre – performances, staging and writing all outstanding. Amazing that such a historic story feels so contemporary and real.

Great performances. It really made me think how terrifying it would be living under the Nazi regime, constantly feeling as though you can only think one way.

Really interesting, emotive way of telling such an important story. So powerful with lovely moments of comic relief! Wonderful!

Such an incredible show. So powerful. I was very emotional.

A great night and a triumph for Strange Town.



FEEDBACK



REVIEWS <https://corrblimey.uk/2022/10/21/the-storm-lantern-scottish-storytelling-centre/>

Strange Town is an Edinburgh based Theatre Company that works throughout the year with children and young people aged 5-25.

Strange Town offers: **actors agency, employment, film, devising, improv comedy, new writing, master classes, opportunities for all, performances, script work, touring, young company and youth theatre.**

FUNDING **The tour of *Storm Lantern* was funded by Thrive Edinburgh**

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