

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Last term, Year 6 children from Holy Cross Catholic Primary School witnessed a magical performance by the Welsh National Opera at Broadway High School.

The children had taken part in a school-based workshop to learn the songs that they would be singing on the day. Ross Evans and Kate Woolveridge delivered the songs, using role play and discussion, allowing the children to use their imaginations and describe what they could see, smell and hear as the story unfolded.

Here are the children thoughts:

"We worked in school with two ladies from the Welsh National Opera. It all started with a warm up of our voices, singing The Grand Old Duke of York. Then they told us that we would be going to see the opera and join in with it. My first thoughts were.....cool!!!

This would be the first time I had watched an opera but this time I would be singing in it too. On the day of the performance there were lots of other schools there. This was going to be fantastic. When we were seated and ready, the conductor, Stuart Stratford, told us all about each of the instruments and how they worked. Each piece of the orchestra made a totally different sound.

Then the lights went down and the story began.

I thought the Magician's Cat was great; he played the part really well. This was a wonderful experience and I am glad I had the opportunity to take part in it. I would love to meet Berlie Doherty who wrote the story."

Jyothis Manalayil, Year 6

"I have never been to an opera before so I was very happy to be watching and taking part in this one. We had a workshop in school which was so much fun. We sat in a large circle and listened to the songs that we needed to learn. My favourite song was "I tell my story to Kikimora". We went to Broadway High School to watch the performance. There were 64 people in the orchestra and they sounded wonderful!

It was a great day to take part in."

Rachael Pritchard, Year 6