

## Theatre Review at Burford School

### *Les Miserables*

*Les Miserables* is my favourite musical and I have seen it five times including once with the original West End cast. When I read that it had been released as a special school edition, I couldn't wait to

see what Burford School would make of it. I knew it would be exceptionally difficult, but having seen their performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, I was sure that they could do it.

#### The Tingle Factor

I was not mistaken. Sean Frankcom, Head of Music, led the cast into a confident and sure-footed performance. They rose splendidly to the demands of the music, backed by a professional orchestra which included some of the school's own musicians. From the front few rows the orchestra was sometimes a little overpowering but this is understandable as there was no pit to conceal them.

All the cast sang beautifully and the solos were very moving - you could hear a pin drop. Each one received rapturous applause.

The song which closes the first Act, *One More Day*, always makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand up and they did so again at this performance.



#### Star Quality

All the leading players were very strong, but I would just like to mention George Roberts from Year 9 who played Gavrouche and was outstanding. Ollie Lewis as

Thenardier and Lily Hunt as Madame had amazing stage presence and sense of timing and brought the house down every time they appeared.

#### Breathtaking Set

The set was breathtaking and must have taken hours to construct and paint and the imaginative way in which the designer coped without a Revolve, showed great ingenuity. The lighting design was also superb.

The costumes were all very appropriate but if I may be allowed one little niggle - I think it was a mistake to send Valjean on stage without a necktie or stock when he was the mayor of the town. He is a very young actor and this would have lent him the necessary gravitas and showed the change in his status.

I must also mention everybody who worked front-of-house, running the bar, selling programmes and raffle tickets. It all contributed to a very enjoyable evening.

**Margaret Gibbs**

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