

Oddments Theatre Company's

Amazing Grace

@Broadstone Baptist Church

Review

Last week, Broadstone Baptist Church had the pleasure of watching a production by Oddments Theatre Company: 'Amazing Grace', the story of John Newton.

Despite his mother teaching him scriptures and hymns from a young age, Newton lost interest in his faith as he began working in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, preferring the freedom of following his own desires. He strayed so far from God that he even began encouraging others to do the same. However, in moments of desperate need, he cried out to God and found his prayers answered, which ultimately led to him leaving his life as a slave trader and becoming an ordained minister. He spent the remainder of his life telling others about the grace and mercy of God and writing hymns, most notably 'Amazing Grace'.



Oddments Theatre Company certainly did this story justice, conveying the seriousness of the slave trade and the dangers of a lack of faith while still keeping it humorous and entertaining. Dan Pegler portrayed John Newton as a character with depth and troubles; it was clear that God never left him, even in his darkest moments. He was having thoughts that I am sure many of us can relate to, and his internal conflict was very personal and moving. The entire performance was touching, with the focus on such a difficult topic of slavery and lack of God, but the cast approached it perfectly. It was respectful and poignant while still having room for plenty of laughs and some very good sea shanties!

It was an extremely moving, hilarious, and visually striking piece of theatre. The cast were not only phenomenal actors, but also genuine and lovely people. The set designs were beautiful, and the lighting was perfect. It is clear to see the thought and the heart that went into this production, with it not only being great entertainment, but insightful and educational. It really was a pleasure to see this piece, and I recommend attending any future performances they do. I certainly will.

Written by Winona Mawer

