

7 April 2011

To Ms Annette Trossbach and the Laboratory Theatre of Florida:

My 9-yr old niece and I have just had the privilege of seeing The Laboratory Theatre of Florida's production of "HAMLET" under the direction of Annette Trossbach. This is the first presentation of the Laboratory Theatre that we have attended. My niece and I are both fans of the play and have seen numerous presentations both on stage and on film. The Lab Theatre's presentation ranks among the finest we have seen to date. We were thrilled by the high professional quality of the play - from the imaginative minimal staging and costuming to the lighting and subtle music. Ms. Trossbach's adaptation of the "World's Greatest Play" lost nothing in its less than traditional 4 hour presentation. The casting was spot on and creative, culminating in a mesmerizing performance by Doug Landin as the both mad and moving Hamlet. Stella Ruiz's contemporized Ophelia was both captivating and relevant even for a 9-yr old. The rest of the cast from the constant Horatio to the obsequious Rosencrantz & Guildenstern were brilliant. What an incredible feat to be able to hold the 2+ hour attention of both an adult and a rapt 9-yr old with equal enjoyment and understanding. Even the beginning Shakespeare student would find the play exciting, comic and surprisingly understandable. We are eagerly anticipating going back to the Lab Theatre for future offerings. Thank you for an unforgettable evening.

Beverly Wells

Shelby Ernst