

## Patron Responses to Bloomsday 2016

All the players were fantastic. Loved the use of modern music.



the performance tonight was absolutely brilliant, the cast were all exceptional. Wayne, your sound track needs to be published and that woman deserves an Oscar, what incredible voice projection she has. What a fantastic contribution you all make, really very impressive.



Last night's performance was outstanding, congratulations to you and the broader team.



I think the nun's chorus was entirely appropriate as an evocation of the voices SD is always hearing in his mind anyway.... Also worked for some very nice satire.



I liked the audience participation after the hellfire sermon; totally appropriate it seemed to me; don't you love the way Joyce can build a community? Choices of music were also terrific, including your Depeche Modes, trip hop etc. By end of the play I was close to tears.



X explained to me that the scripts for all the Bloomsday productions are written by committee. That's an amazing feat in itself. I thought they did a great job with *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and the cast was terrific, particularly young Stephen.

All of my contacts who went to see *Portrait* say it was (a) brilliant (regulars) and (b) brilliant (newcomers). Some neighbours, in whose letterbox I dropped a flyer, went for the first time to a Bloomsday production. They were over the moon about it.



'Brilliant!'



I thought Matthew Dorning was a great Stephen. We saw him develop and change as he grew up questioning the life he was leading and choosing to leave family ,church and Ireland.



Congratulations on a wonderful Bloomsday festival - you are a bloody marvel - and I enjoyed being part of it



I too very much enjoyed *Portrait*. For me, it was like watching the book come alive in front of me. The selections chosen for the performance and the way they were acted out was fascinating.



I thought 'Portrait' was terrific- a great script, wonderfully acted, and admirably faithful to the original text.



I loved your production of the *Portrait*, a dizzy dream with all the themes of family, church, school, sex etc. whirling around the sensitive Joyce. Well done. An English/Australian member of the audience beside me thought it was brutal and sad, she asked me, did I have a schooling like that? I guess I grew up through the Troubles and escaped it, those that stayed, as Heaney said escaped to their front rooms. I enjoyed the boys, Liam and Matthew, the haunting nuns esp Steve. All of it really, it would be interesting to see it again, you should offer 2 nights for 1!



Congrats to you and all the Bloomsday crew for a wonderful performance, I was really glad to see it yesterday and I'm very grateful to X for giving up his ticket, that was extremely kind and generous of him.



Facebook Response by Maireid Sullivan

Bloomsday-in-Melbourne festival has become the world's best showcase of James Joyce's genius. I have no doubt about it!

The people behind the festival reflect the same brilliance -- deeply gifted, remarkably courageous, well organised and inspiringly dedicated, never missing a year, since the mid-90s. This year celebrates the 100th anniversary of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" - written before the 1916 Easter Rising. The performance was, for me, a profound insight into that particular piece of Irish history - what it must have been like to live in Dublin, surrounded by the overbearing 'dogma' of nuns and priests, juxtaposed against my own idyllic life in rural West Cork where we never saw nuns and there was only one priest who served a distant role. Migrating to America at age 12 was far less stultifying than Australia at age 20 where the "war of religions" culture was entrenched in politics, I quickly learned to dance around and away from the argumentative 'grip' and now I see more clearly why Joyce left Ireland but could never stop thinking about the drama he left behind! With deep gratitude, I wish to thank Frances Devlin-Glass, Bob Glass, Wayne Pearn, Matthew Dorning, Liam Gillespie, Silas Aiton, Christina Costigan, Kylie Bell, Steven Dawson, Steve Gome, Steve Gome, Ness Harwood, Lindon Blakey and all the others who, remarkably and systematically well directed, remind us that live theatre has the power to transport us into the intimate reality, the history, that inspired the power within the written word.



Congratulations to the Director par excellence, Wayne Pearn. The fantastic cast, headed by Matthew Dorning in a most convincing portrayal of the young Steven Dedalus, brought Wayne's vision to life. The way he moved from childhood to young manhood was spellbinding. Thanks to all the SUBLIME cast; Christina ( a reminder of years of terrorisation by the Redemptorists missions in my youth, Steven, another face of terror, Steve, upholder of public morality!! (well trying to), Liam, yet another accolade is his vast growing repertoire, Silas for a convincing Fr Conmee, with human frailty allowed to shine through.

And lastly to Marian, who I hope stays around longer than our last great Bloomsday Mayo treasure.



This is the jewel in the Bloomsday crown. Can't wait for 2017. Thanks for a memorable night of theatre.



Today I raise a toast to Frances Devlin Glass. The star and sun of Bloomsday that shone at its brightest last night. May your bright rays illuminate the Bloomsday path for many more to come. Thanks for last nite. It was sublime.

Replied to by Ruth Katerelos on FaceBook on 19 June

What a wonderful tribute to you and to your passion for Joyce. You certainly opened my eyes to his amazing writing - God - what is it? 32 years or so ago at Rusden, Portrait and Ulysses, the latter especially took me to a place in literature I'd never been, and probably not visited since. You were an amazing teacher, and your passion for Bloomsday is inspiring. Was lovely to see you Wednesday, though I was a bit under the weather and pretty well bolted home after the show. Congrats Wayne Pearn, Christina Costigan, Stephen Dawson and the rest of the cast and crew.



Chris Boek on Facebook 19 June

Thanks to Bloomsday people, all for an entertaining night of Theatre. Another great Bloomsday show!



Facebook Congratulations from

Debra Low: Lovely show everyone! Well done all.



Leanne Cairnduff: A wonderful night seeing this year's Bloomsday show - *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. Superbly written, directed and acted. Another fantastic production for Bloomsday in Melbourne and Wayne Pearn.



Cathy Kohlen: They did good. X



Leo Regan: great production well done all



Gayle Pemberton: /react-text Congratulations wayne, you are a star..

Mary Dunne: Really enjoyed Production,



One of Bloomsday's new actors, Christina Costigan also added her thanks for the opportunity to work in Portrait in these terms:

And so another show ends. 'Portrait' was a delight in every way: an entertaining script from classic source material; a fun, talented cast; supported by superbly efficient crew; directed cannily and imaginatively. Thank you to everyone who (booked early and) supported this sell-out season, my splendid fellow cast members lighting and sound wiz Lindon Blakey; crew Anna-Rose Shack and Ness Harwood; and director [Wayne Pearn](#) who honoured me with one of the most kick-arse monologues it's been my privilege to perform. Finally, thank

you to the Bloomsday group for creating and steering this glorious production. A pleasure and a privilege.