

## Patrons Comments on Bloomsday 2011

Our patrons have their say:

*Diane Silber has been coming to Bloomsday since 1994 and was a key organiser of it from 1995-2005 inclusive. She is a theatrical entrepreneur (on a small scale)*

Diane Silber to me  
show details Jun 17 (1 day ago)

We very much enjoyed the papers at the seminar, Fran, and the dinner show was lots of fun.

Cyclops was a dramatic/comic/tragic triumph. Not a dull instant from start to finish and many, many hilarious moments of parody/pastiche – the Celtic Queen was a most memorable creation and the audience was mightily impressed by Suzannah’s prodigious feats of memorising, not to mention her ravishing beauty and ever-changing attire - I would have loved to be back stage and watch those transformations in progress - the little flags in the hair made me laugh out loud. The ‘one-eyed’ viciousness of the barflies made us all squirm with disgust, as it should, so it was, therefore, extraordinary that one could, at times, empathize, even with the Citizen. Brilliant. I loved the segments of farcical play – the prop basket was wonderfully funny – and the comic ensemble work was gracefully executed. Phil moved well with the book to play with and looked secure in the role. My only tiny quibble was with the need to put so much of the pub dialogue into his mouth. I was absolutely convinced by his created persona. The screen added brilliance to the set – colour, movement, etc. and allowed you to add texture, information, and to support the text and action at all the necessary points – it was also hanging in precisely the right place. Lighting worked a treat.

Brenda is a magician.

Terrific day, Fran. You, Bob and the Committee are to be congratulated – again!

*Katrina Alford is a first-time patron of Bloomsday*

Katrina Alford to me  
show details 10:24 AM (1 hour ago) [19/06/11]

Dear Frances Many thanks for invite. Production was outstanding. As one new to Ulysses (up to about p15), I found it gave a phenomenal life to the text. Set was great, cast also- female Queen/narrator excellent. I loved the visual and language contrast between her narrations & pub goings on. Humour in adaption was lovely-especially Amy Winehouse and the mating elephants. Devlinesque? In all, it has made me eager to continue novel, which I find very hard & made well aware of my lack of knowledge of Greek mythology & more. Even with these deficits I am entranced with the book, but have had to waive my usual novel-reading attitudes & approach, to immerse my self in the extraordinary language. It is amazing that you have done this annually since 1994. I so wished I had seen them all. Seeing the play made me realize the intensity and extent of your

commitment. I knew a few of the audience, including Beverley ....I noted James McCaughey was. Well done my friend. WonderfulKatrinaPS BOB looked gorgeous, as did U

*Genevieve Rogers is a patron of Bloomsday, and has a longstanding interest in theatre.*

Genevieve Rogers to me  
show details 7:45 PM (16 hours ago) (19/06/11)

Hi, Frances and Bob

Congratulations on "An Irishman and a Jew...". It was excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Narrators are wonderful devices for all sorts of purposes really – and your Warrior Queen did a great job with an enormous workload.

We think that it deserves another life – maybe other Bloomsday groups could buy the rights? Shouldn't disappear from sight after just this week. Really well done.

Sorry we couldn't stay for all the seminar. Would it be possible to send your seminar paper, Frances? I'd love to read it.

A great day all round this year.

G

*James King is a second-time patron of Bloomsday, and a reader of Joyce for many decades.*

JAMES KING to me  
show details Jun 18 (1 day ago)

Frances

I'm going to Queensland next week, and when I get back I'll write you a proper note - so this is by way of an interim signal, just to say congratulations to you, Brenda, the actors and your team for a truly memorable adaptation of Cyclops. My friend Michael wasn't feeling well, so I had no option but to forego the seminar, which was a disappointment, but I have had two highly favourable reports.

Knowing you a little, I have a sense of how high are your standards of yourself and others- but I don't want to hear a word of disparagement, Bloomsday in Melbourne 2011 was absolutely outstanding!

Blooming marvellous in fact!

Regards

*Text from, Robyn Foskett (19/06/11) , who could not participate in Bloomsday this year, but is reporting response of other friends (who are not yet named because I don't have their permissions to do so yet):*

Just heard from B—and R--. They loved the show and full of admiration for you and your colleagues. I'm very happy for you(s). You deserve the applause.

*Roisin Murphy, former actor and committee member of Bloomsday (9.30pm on 19/06/11*

Fridays night production was excellent. The best of the Bloomsday events I have seen.

Congratulations to all:)

Well done.

Regards

Roisin

*From Don Sweeney, patron, 23 June 2011*

This year's Bloomsday was simply exceptional. While the Joycean elements were as enjoyable and challenging as ever, it was clear that the director, the writers and designers and cast had wrought an outstanding spectacle within a very complex framework. I even had trouble believing that I was viewing the first public performance - the standard of performance, the diction, the caricatures, and the intensity created were testament to the professionalism and skill of the whole team. Simply exceptional.

Please pass on my congratulations to all involved!

*From Peter Kiernan, Vice-President, Australian Irish Heritage Network, 17 June 2011*

A Triumph ! Best Ever ! Congrats to you two for a most professional and polished piece of theatre. Abbey Theatre ? Eat your heart etc.. I loved Bloom and also Susannah ( I mean her acting ! ). I am very proud of all your efforts. Thanks to Brenda et al for a wonderful experience Peter.