

Patron Comments for Bloomsday 2018

Jeremy Evans by email to Steve Carey on 30 June

I am an avid follower of the NY Times, not because I am an American but because I love quality journalism. I read the recent article there on John Kidd, and it was this which alerted me to JJ; I sent a copy of this to Barnaby at the time. I realised at some point that various centres celebrate JJ on his birthday - 23 June - by staging a Bloomsday. Maybe Melbourne too! - I am a recent arrival here. I went on to find the web announcement of 'Holy Cow', and attended this play with my wife Helen. We both of us thoroughly enjoyed it.

At some other point I learnt about your seminar, and feeling that 'Ulysses' really did sound special, signed up.

I bought a copy of the book in 1964, and noted comments on it over the years, but went no further.

I anticipate that your seminar will bring together a compatible group of odd-balls like myself, and that you will across an absorbing day lead us each of us into some greater understanding of this book.

Liz Oley, 18 June by email to FDG

Congratulations to you, Bob, the committee and all involved in such a successful Bloomsday! Thanks to everyone involved!

The whole day was really terrific and Michael and I both thoroughly enjoyed it!

The hotel location worked so well being suitable for the seminar, then lunch with a chance to stretch our legs on the roof!

The two "seminarians" set the scene so well for the play and were both so entertaining!

The lunch time readings were really enjoyable – it was a delight to hear them being read with an Irish accent – I actually thought that the actor was Irish!

The actors were terrific and brought the chapter to life illustrating so much so well! You must be so pleased with how it all went.

I do hope you had good audiences on Sunday as well.

Many people put much effort into making it all such a success but I know you were a prime mover. Congratulations and many thanks to all!

Helene McNamara 18 June to FDG by email

Very much enjoyed the play.

Maireid Sullivan by email and Facebook on 18 June

James Joyce's cutting satire on literary history, 2018.

"Holy Cow!"

Saturday night's performance was electrifying!

The actors interacted brilliantly - energising engagement with the audience.

A GREAT example of concord - they delivered Joyce's satirical 'styles of speech' as if they were born to it! 🎭

Hats off to the evocative vocalise of the eternal mother in childbirth behind the scenes.

With admiration for [Frances Devlin-Glass](#)' dedication and tireless leadership over 25 years of astonishingly creative theatrical achievements in producing the annual Bloomsday in Melbourne Festival.

Text message from Greg Kratzmann on Monday 18 June:

It was brilliant! How brave of you to tackle Oxen of the Sun, the most challenging chapter of Ulysses. The actor who plays Bloom/JJ is wonderful, but then they all are.

Renee Huish by email on 23 June

Somewhat late in proffering congratulations on another sterling Bloomsday extravaganza. ... The new cast were very impressive, especially in learning that quick fire script. Interesting that none of the old guard, that I was hoping to see, were acting. A new broom!! They certainly gave it their all.

Perhaps I have become used to Wayne's subtle interpretations of scripts, and his commitment to wringing every nuance out of Joyce.

I sympathised with Jennifer's dilemma in condensing "34 different literary styles and genres and nearly 1000 years of history into a ninety minute theatre production".

To address this dilemma I felt there were too many props and banners with no respite from the relentless action. For me this deflected from Joyce's words and I found myself closing my eyes to try to concentrate on Joyce's words and meaning rather on the non stop frantic activity.