

Press & Audience

“The standing ovations every night were much deserved”

Audience - *Shakers*

“Literate, brilliantly paced, totally

engrossing and perceptively revealing of the authors true intentions”

The Birmingham Post - *Amadeus*

“For 21 years I have somehow resisted the temptation to call this dynamic young group brilliant. This time I realised it was time to give up the struggle” Birmingham Mail - *Twelfth Night*

“Forget this is youth theatre, forget it is an amateur production – this is first class theatre full of fine performances with not a single weak link.”

Roger Clarke, *Behind the Arras* - ROAD

“This is Stage2, grasping the nettle that is live theatre and releasing the butterflies of talented imagination. This is Stage2, and Stage2 never lets you down.” John Slim, *Behind The Arras* - *Our Day Out*

“Fantastic night, still blown away by the superb emotional engagement by all performers” Audience

“You had to keep reminding yourself that you were watching not only amateurs, but a youth theatre. Roger Clarke, Behind the Arras - Picasso’s Women

“Yet again, Liz Light has transformed a show to accommodate the needs and the talents of her youthful charges” John Slim, *Behind The Arras* - *Shakers*

“There was a first-night standing ovation – then, yet again, **Stage2** sent its audience home in grateful and heady disbelief, although old hands among the patrons know that this happens every time.” John Slim, *Behind The Arras* – *Romeo and Juliet*

Professionals & Practitioners

“**Stage2** has given children from many backgrounds, life changing opportunities. It has pioneered schemes and committees and has stood out for its awards, its history of successful members within and outside the theatre industry, and its exciting, inspirational atmosphere”

David Mooney, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

*“As well as nurturing specific creative skills, **Stage2** gave me discipline, punctuality, killer organisational skills, an appreciation of responsibility, loyalty, confidence and, above all, the desire to rise to any challenge”*

*Jess Southwood,
Director, Purple Monster*

“Keep doing what you’re doing. The city needs Stage2”

*Mike Royal, National Director,
The Lighthouse Group*

“Birmingham at its best – inspired”

*Head of English,
King Edwards VI School Aston*

“**Stage2** is an inspiration. The way it engages young people in drama through the sheer enjoyment of acting is a role model to which we should all aspire.”

Simon Woods, Chief Executive of Birmingham School of Acting.

“Stage2 provides children and young people with a unique experience - an opportunity to develop skills, professional networks and acquire a knowledge base which supports them for the rest of their lives”

Janet Hetherington, Arts Director, Birmingham Children’s Hospital

*“Since leaving **Stage2** I have worked at many different theatre organisations including The Birmingham Rep, Women and Theatre, South Birmingham College, Birmingham Theatre School and The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry. Without the training that **Stage2** gave me in those formative years I would not be where I am now”*

Tom Bailey, Head of Drama Provision, The Leipzig International School, Germany

Parents

“Thank you for your energy, enthusiasm and inspiration.”

“Stage2 is so close and supportive – it shows family qualities and has great opportunities we intend to take advantage of. You help make my children happy, confident and productive”

“When your children’s friends are moving people to tears with their passion and creativity you know you are in the middle of something very special”

“Our son has been with Stage2 for almost 4 years. He absolutely loves it and has participated in all kinds of activities, from plays to marketing events. I think Stage2 has helped him enormously, boosting his confidence and providing him with a warm and nurturing environment. And of course the plays rock!”

“Such a lovely company full of delightful kids doesn’t happen by accident. Don’t know how you do it but keep doing it!”

“Stage2 is a cultural phenomenon which, irrespective of the involvement of our own children, exceeds any expectations of youth theatre”

“I have never seen so many lovely young people together in one place”

*“Hats off to your older members and Mentors who do so much for the new and younger members. A fantastic organisation – I would have no hesitation in recommending **Stage2** to any friends”*

“I am amazed at how professional the performances are and yet so inclusive of members”

“My son has been working harder at school. The school and I think this is down to all of the work Stage2 have been doing”

Members

“If you mention Stage2 in front of me, my face will say it all”

*“I am doing a lot of job interviews, something that without **Stage2** I wouldn't have been able to cope with”*

*“**Shakers** was so much fun! I'm so proud to be a part of a company that does such brilliant productions.”*

Stage2 Quotes

“I thoroughly enjoyed being part the production and came away feeling so proud to have been in such a great show and happy as I made so many friends.”

“Genuinely welcoming to people of all backgrounds and levels of ability”

“The workshop was engaging, entertaining and thought-provoking, something I will always remember and look back in the future.”

“I decided to go to the pretext workshop for ‘A Midsummers Night's Dream’ despite knowing nothing about Shakespeare, I learnt so much that week!”

“Every individual is given a chance to shine, and contribute to the company in a way that suits them”

“There is a real sense of security and community, nobody is ever left out.”

“The Mentor Scheme made me feel so at home, when I first joined Stage2 and it is because of them that I felt confident enough to make friends within the company.”

“It's hard to put into words what a special place Stage2 is, it's something you can't quite understand until you are in it.”