

Rock Challenge team showcase their fantastic 2019 piece

On Tuesday 26th Feb, the DHS Rock Challenge team of 120 students, who have been hard at work since September, had the opportunity to showcase their amazing Rock Challenge 2019 piece 'Viva La Vida.' at The Hawth Theatre in Crawley.

The piece is based around the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, who is most famous for her self- portraits. Frida had a difficult life; she suffered from polio and was involved in a bus crash which left her with lifelong pain and medical problems, as well as being in a difficult marriage. Her art work reflected these difficulties, portraying both pain and passion. The Rock Challenge piece explored the different aspects of her life and character; celebrating her status as an icon of female creativity and showcasing her exploration of Mexican culture and traditions.

Having reached the National finals last year and securing their place in the Southern Premier division finals, Durrington High were at The Hawth purely to showcase their work, as other local schools competed to reach the Southern Open Finals. It was a fantastic opportunity for the cast to experience performing the piece in a professional venue and gain valuable feedback from the judges. Although the formal feedback is to follow, the staff and students were delighted with the verbal comments on the night, 'Congratulations on an energetic performance where you captured Frida's character, showing her sombre dark side along with the inspirational elements. You had researched her Mexican art style and culture and used the full stage with dramatic effect.'

We were also awarded Premier Awards of Excellence for stage use, entertainment, visual enhancement, stage crew, choreography and concept. We were also given the award for positive inclusion, reflecting the number of students involved in the production, which is open to all with no audition process. Emily Isham, Performing Arts Director, said 'we are really proud of the positive inclusion award as we feel it is really important that all students that want to are able to experience Rock Challenge. It gives the students so much to be proud of and for many, it gives them a confidence which they take into other aspects of their schooling.'

Now the team continue to rehearse as they prepare for the Southern Open Finals which take place on Saturday 27th April in Portsmouth. Watch this space!

