

The Bloody Chamber – Customer feedback

Please note that all feedback is reproduced exactly as submitted via our post-show email surveys. No changes have been made to spelling or grammar. Names have been removed where applicable to protect customer's anonymity.

I thought the production was superb - and particularly liked the use of film, and the wonderful dresses.

We count on the Northern Stage to bring more daring and challenging performances to Newcastle. After seen a number of plays, especially in Stage 2, it has become my favorite theater venue.

I have always highly respected the work at the theatre however The Bloody Chamber was a huge disappointment to both myself, colleagues and my students.

Has producer actually SEEN/ heard Bartok's Bluebeard's Castle? Were Dracula's brides a serious attempt to convey the horror of the story?

Didn't think the performance worked. I liked the mixed media aspect, but found the script unrealistic and the acting wooden.

I attended a performance of 'The Bloody Chamber' on 30th September. Initially, I did not have high hopes for the production, but I was enticed to go because of the low price of tickets for under-25s and my fondness for Angela Carter's work. However, the production far exceeded my expectations. I thought it was a dark, beautiful and seductive piece of theatre. I loved the use of film (particularly in the sequences involving the bride's train journey). Overall, fantastic.

"Think I may have marked the 1st couple of sections at the wrong end of the scale. Should be at the good end. Very atmospheric play, well acted. Like the projections that moved the story along, similar to the Tigers Bride.

Unsure about the nudity, thought this was slightly unsettling. Audience very quiet on leaving. Still, please produce more plays like this as traditional theatre can be very boring.

You used to do season tickets where you got so many shows at reduced price."

I think the performance contained unnecessary nudity to the degree that some members of the audience were left feeling quite uncomfortable!

"We really enjoyed the show (all four of us). The bar beforehand was a bit crowded with there being two shows on and I guess also freshers week at the university. I would be nice to have a choice of real ale at the bar.

The performance was a little stiff in terms of the first night. We don't think we really knew what to expect and that seemed true of the rest of the audience. But it was a lot of fun although difficult to laugh out loud at, I would have liked to not sure about others though."

Enjoyed the show. Good production

The stages could be a little better sign posted as we weren't sure where we were to go.

Didn't think much of the play. Nudity wasn't necessary. Nice stage props. Seats are very uncomfortable!

"a great night out
everything went smoothly
easy to book tickets on-line
theatre conveniently located
no problem collecting tickets
helpful staff
superp production"

I have enjoyed everything except 'The Bloody Chamber' which was very disappointing

The seats in Stage 2 are quite uncomfortable for sitting at prolonged periods

"A very enjoyable evening, Good bar, theatre close to good transport links, And a very good performance."

We had a great time at the show and liked the idea of mixing stage and screen.

There seemed to only be 2 cubicles in the gents toilets and there was a large queue before the show.

"Dislike you of cinematic background as prop to narrative; unnecessary surely in theatre?
could be used in a more abstract way perhaps?
However, good choice of material and good performances"

"Really enjoyed the performance. Well acted, well written, good length - I liked the fact that there was no interval as this may have spoilt the 'flow'. If I had to make a criticism of Northern Stage it would be that I am never able to get a seat in the bar before the performance but then this is due to the popularity of the place so its not really a criticism at all!"

"I've attended the theatre before & will again (I have tickets for Othello next year). I like the variety in the programme & that risks are taken- for instance with this performance & that of Como Agua Para Chocolate.

I enjoyed this performance- nudity, violence & all!" Excellent

"Favourite theatre in Newcastle. Interesting variety of productions and reasonably affordable prices.

Difficult to book online and get student discount for one person if there is more than one in the party."

I came to "The Bloody Chamber" with minimal information other than it was an adult fairy tale. I had a thoroughly marvellous time - I found the play to be wonderfully tongue in cheek (though I am not sure this was quite what was being aimed for...!), the performances excellent, especially the female lead, and the staging magnificent.

Bloody Chamber a good choice of play/text given the location of the theatre on the university campus. Visually the production worked well although the performances were rather lacking in energy and the actors appeared to find it difficult to make the impact on the audience that was created by the film.

Very professional performance. The actors were brilliant. Stage 2 a lot less comfortable than stage 1.

performance was excellent enjoyed the film aspect and also as love angela carter was pleased with the adaptation

I found the seats extremely uncomfortable. The lack of leg room and space meant I had a bad back for several days after the show and it really impeded my enjoyment of the evening. I was very glad it was a short performance and I will seriously have to consider this when purchasing future tickets. My friend had the same problem.

an excellent show.

"The interpretation of the story was bit too visually orientated. Having fully naked actors and extensive sex scenes was not necessary for the plot. The combination of play and film was good."

"It would be helpful if the ushers directed people as to what sides their seats were on. I asked, but others didn't and walked the entire length of the row to get to their seats, meaning everyone had to stand up.

It was a very good adaptation and the acting was superb."

We enjoyed the performance.

The theatre's great. The Bloody Chamber looked brilliant - the set, costumes, lighting and music were superb but unfortunately I just felt that on this occasion the actors failed to totally engage with their characters and I was left with the feeling that it could have been so much better. It was a shame because it was a good adaptation and everything else was perfect. Maybe they were just having an off day!

Very good performance and excellent value for money however I did feel that the nudity was drawn out far too much (they added many scenes which weren't in the book). Overall I enjoyed it though.

excellent performance particularly from lead actress in a very demanding role

When the show started we thought it was going to be great. However, the storyline seemed to degenerate (at times almost funny) and lost our interest. I'm really comfortable with nudity but felt that it was at times actually unnecessary to the plot, also that the actress had a 'brazilian' was out of keeping! I wouldn't recommend this production to anyone.

A good performance overall. Excellent set design and direction. Strong performances from the actors (especially the lead). The script seemed to be a little lacking in some places though and ended with a fizzle rather than a bang. Not sure if this is due to the source material though. Overall a very good performance.

Although I really enjoyed the performance overall, particularly the music, use of film and costume, I don't think the sex scenes worked particularly well - there's always something comedic about a man with his trousers round his ankles; the scene in the Bloody Chamber itself could have been a bit more horrific; and the central character's beard reminded me of those worn by outrageous villains in silent movies.

"Some interesting techniques(good use of multiple media)- Enjoyed having a feature to draw attention while scene-change occurred. However, the overly complicated way this quite simple plot-line was conveyed lead the audience to believe that some new more complex plot was going to develop throughout the piece. When this was not the case there was an overall feeling of disappointment or anticlimax.

No complaints about the Northern Stage itself, try to come as often as possible- brilliant place."

"The recent removal of car parking space has proved an inconvenience, especially for a disabled badge holder.

The facility for parking within the University grounds should be the subject of some negotiation - perhaps by adding a supplement for parking to the ticket price and the issue of a car parking permit with theatre ticket?"

Excellent performance, if a little blush inducing!

"I'm a fan of Northern Stage productions, felt a bit let down by this one. I thought the script lacked the suggestion that made its source material effective. For example, I found the 3 ghosts too literal. The relationship between the piano tuner and the 'heroine' felt different in the original. The set was awkward and the people moving things around were distracting. The dry ice reminded me of top of the pops. The use of film was good. I had more positive things to say, no room."

The usher was quite rude when there was a problem with my ticket - there were not enough seats in the row compared to how many had been sold! She tried to send me out without my friends to discuss it with the box office and said i couldn't remain. Luckily another audience member worked out the problem. Normally I find Northern Stage staff quite polite.

I didn't think the staging worked well in the play - it made a good script quite comedic.

Excellent performance, good use of mixed media. First time at stage 2 for many years nice small more intimate space. Only negative point I thought the ending could have been more dramatic, but not sure this would have been done.

very enjoyable

"Unfortunately I found Bloody Chamber conventional and uninspiring although I love Angela Carter's work. No chemistry on stage and generally rather wooden. But I still think overall Nstage is a great place."

excellent building nice to see some different types of drama.

It was packed out, which is great, you clearly need to do more Angela Carter!

The performance was excellent. The cast were very good especially the girl/wife. I think the use of the curtain with film of Holy Island and the train worked really well in setting a local context. We always eat at McKennas prior to the show and our only disappointment was that there was no three course bistro menu available on the night.

The Bloody Chamber is well below the standard I have come to expect at Northern Stage. It was a poor story done in poor taste.

The theatre is a fab space and provides some excellent examples of contemporary theatre for the region. However The Bloody Chamber was really disappointing and in my opinion sub standard. The performances lacked depth and chemistry and the directors interpretation didn't seem to marry with the script.

"No urinals in the gents toilets was a bit odd and meant having to wait (not something we chaps are generally used to!) People in front of us leaving and coming back in (one pair just as the performance was ending) was a bit irritating. Good, interesting play though, well acted and we had a really good evening. Thanks for that"

I was very disappointed by The Bloody Chamber. I felt the acting was hammy and I didn't believe any of the relationships between the characters. I felt that in some scenes the actors were just saying their lines and not listening to each other and responding in the moment. The choreography was heavy handed. The nudity was rushed. What should have been a visual and sensual feast left me recoiling with embarrassment and pity for the cast.

I thought this play was fantastic!

I'm afraid to say that the least satisfactory aspect of my visit was the play itself, which I thought was well intentioned but misjudged on the whole. The plot and characterisation was thin and un-involving, the symbolism was a bit obvious (as opposed to poetically suggestive), the tone was confusing, the script was heavy-handed, and it was generally rather earnest and humourless. However, I thought the design was beguiling, and that this was an appropriate piece for the second stage.

Excellent performance. Very nice venue, Stage 2 good size, not too big. An enjoyable experience!

We love the theatre, the bar and the Northern stage ...the show was terrible, only good thing about it was the PR advertising it! Well good props, stage design but an amateur student type production . We figure if you see something bad every now and again it makes the good all the better, we will still be coming back as we have seen so many great shows.

This was the first time I have seen a performance at Northern Stage and I'm definitely looking forward to seeing future performances.

I was very disappointed with the performance. I found the nudity unnecessary and resulted in the story being side-lined and the emphasis misplaced on shocking the audience rather than engaging them in the drama.

Lack of seating within the Bar before the performance was a bit annoying. Also the front seats in Stage 2 were far too close to the stage, this was most notable when smoke used to fill the stage supposedly for moody effect actually resulted in the entire front row being fumigated. Although for myself this was the highlight of my evening, I couldn't help but think that this stage had been added just because there was some space left in the building. I've also seen monkeys act better.

Performance was excellent - we were very impressed

"It was very busy at the theatre but there were quite a lot of tables empty which had been reserved for people eating - so we had to stand for half an hour before the performance started.

Would it not be possible to have extra seating for people just wanting a drink - either upstairs or downstairs? Good idea to be able to take drinks into theatre though."

The play was disappointing. Everything else was brilliant!

"The performance and the staff were excellent. I will come again and again. However I was not asked for ID for my tickets and they were all on display with names clearly visible. The toilets were filthy, stuff on the seat and up the walls.
Excellent performance and waiting staff."

Different! Not sure what to make of it really. Thought the staging was very clever but not sure about the play itself-it just seemed a bit theme parkish to me especially the scene in the chamber with the three wives-just a bit of gruesome Disney really, as was the clip clop of mother to the rescue! I'm not familiar with Angela Carter's work so maybe it was meant to be like that. I'll look her up when I get time. However, that's why I like to come to Northern Stage - always something different!

"show inventively presented . exciting visual experience. seats uncomfortable even for a relatively short play."

The Bloody Chamber was very enjoyable. However when dealing with the box office they were rather ruthlessly efficient i.e. when I phoned with two different enquires, the person answering rung off before I could ask my second question. But after ringing back all of my enquires were satisfactorily dealt with.

I thought that the performance was outstanding. I was very impressed with how the play had been adapted from the book and thought it was an excellent way of bringing it all across.

The seats in stage 2 were very uncomfortable - many people commented after the performance.

everything was great apart from the show!

The performance was terrible. If I had spent only £5 I would not be so unhappy but for £10 I felt like I could have spent the money better doing anything else.

I was disappointed by some aspects of "The Bloody Chamber". The use of the screen as a projection surface worked well and could have been used most successfully for the sex scenes. Instead, the "consummation" was tedious- the most ordinary, adolescent of tumbles, with no sense of an awakening sense of depravity. Intelligent use of the screen would have allowed our imaginations to have created much powerful scenes. Instead the highly choreographed naked scenes unbalanced the whole performance.

The play was interesting but lacked integration. The playwright seemed to focus too much on 'first tier' symbolism and too little on the tensions inherent within the novella

Loved the visuals in particular.

none

"Really enjoyed the play but pleased it wasn't any longer as the seats are so uncomfortable and you feel really squashed in, much preferred the seating before. Food looked good even though we'd not built in time to eat but area again felt cramped and lacked the atmosphere of last layout. Enjoyed being back but a bit disappointed by venue and only 3 toilets!."

Our only gripe is that we found the seats a little uncomfortable and my husband didn't have as much legroom as he would have liked on the row we were sitting in. We would definitely come here again though as we liked the atmosphere, it felt very relaxed and friendly.

We thoroughly enjoyed it.

It was pretty bad. It seemed to be patriarchal version of a feminist story also it seems like Northern Stage use sex and violence to shock rather than for any other artistic merit.

Excellent performance. Felt comfy and quite at home in the theatre.

"Performance was Bloody Chamber. Having seen some amazing productions at NS (Doubtful Guest and The Doll's House, in particular) I perhaps built my expectations too high for this production - especially when I heard it had sold out. It definitely wasn't a bad production, and was enjoyable, but I think the marketing perhaps suggested it emphasized certain aspects (the feminism) more than the play actually contained. It was straight-forward gothic - which was great, but unexpected. Love NS though!"

poor direction..actors expectable level, scene nice

Bloody Cahmber was excellent, brilliant use of film and live action, great casting performances

I attended the show with my 17 yr old daughter and we were inspired to discuss the play at length later that evening. The discussion led to on to other feminine issues.

Good first visit. Will come again.

"The play was excellent. Unfortunately the seats were uncomfortable for me and with no break this spoiled the evening a little. Would be good to be able to have the bistro menu downstairs. We were told we needed to pre book for it."

There was a mix up with the seating. I had booked a wheelchair space and a carers seat and had consecutive numbers on the tickets. However I ended up having to sit in a row in front which was not satisfactory.

Once again, a fantastic night out

When I went to pick up the tickets that I had purchased off the internet. I noticed that I had an extra ticket for show so I rang the box office to find out why. Its seems that for some reason I had been moved without being informed. So I was waiting to be moved but this did not happen and 5 minutes into the show the usher asked me to move to another seat, but no reason was given. Apart from two late comers who did not a ticket for the seat I sitting in wanted it. This spoilt the show for me.