

**Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary – REVIEWS**  
HAPA - Hamilton Academy of Performing Arts

**Grade seven and eight**

**Performance at HAPA April 5, 2011**

1. I enjoyed the puppet show “Young Sophia” because of many reasons. The puppeteers interpreted the life of Sophia very well, I felt as though I was there with her. When her mother died, I wanted to run up and hug her. Then I remembered she was a puppet. I also liked how the show had not only puppets but real people, too. Overall it was a great performance and I wouldn’t change a thing.

**Hannah**

2. What a show, both historical and intriguing! In the play “Young Sophia” we learn about a young girl Sophia MacNab and Dundurn Castle. The Studio Babette Puppet Theatre did a wonderful job with their puppets. They were detailed and made very well. With the way the puppeteers moved the puppets it was very realistic. Their set was very clever. I especially enjoyed how they changed the scenes. By flipping picture frames, it became outside or by taking off the frames you could see small pictures that looked as though you were peeking through a window. It was very enjoyable.

**Gabrielle**

3. The little puppet play was planned and placed very nicely. The entire attention of the room was focused directly on the puppets, not on the people handling them. That made the performance even easier to watch. The puppets were put together wonderfully. The ways of the movements in the joints of the puppets were played out exquisitely. The emotions were also fabulous. Everything about the play was put together well, and every little detail was perfect, and fit together like a puzzle piece.

**Claudia**

4. I liked the play. It was cute. I learnt a lot from the play. The costumes were very old fashioned, and it was great. The acting was great, too. I went to the castle and everything that was in the play was correct. The set was fabulous, it looked very old fashioned which was great. I loved how if you were changing areas in the scenes you got to just flip the picture over. I liked the sound. I give this play five stars.

**Sophia**

5. I think the set was very good. I thought it was neat how the windows turned into the fences to indicate the house and the garden. I do however think that some scene changes were sort of slow at times. I think the lights were excellent but sometimes I thought the music should not have been on at some parts. I thought the acting was great and the script, but I thought you should have explained more what the story was about. I thought the costuming was great and realistic.

**Alexander**

6. I think the play was very well done, I loved the way you did the puppets and loved the way you did everything. I enjoyed the music in the background! You did a good job on the tricks but I think you can improve a bit on that. The costumes were very nice and I am guessing hard to make. I thought it was pretty obvious that the puppets were not speaking, I think you could improve on that somehow. The set was very nicely done I think you could make it a bit bigger and more props. Overall I thought that the play was very well done, it entertained me a lot and I would love to see another play from you guys again some times. Very well done!!

**Kristie: four stars**

7. I think the show really was really good. The main thing that I would change is that I would not made it so obvious that it was the person speaking not the puppet. Overall it was really good. Joanne Patterson was really good at the lights and sound. Marie Franek was a very good actress. The funniest part of the show was Mr. Thomson the teacher and when the two poodles peed on the tree. It was very good.

**Addison, four and a half stars**

8. Young Sophia was a marvellous puppet play. The set was a fabulously prepared background; the puppeteers knew where everything was. It was well organized. The costumes and puppets were wonderful! They helped to tell what year was the play in. The puppeteers acted in different voices and characters, exceptional!! The puppeteers showed emotions in their character. There were few props and oral difficulties but they were worked through and barely noticeable. The lights and sound were fantastic!! Although there were a few mistakes in bagpipes music. The changing in the props from scene to scene was very well done. The maid or housekeeper would switch the set. I did not expect the staircase and the bed! It was awesome. I liked the humour in the characters; it added a real “oomph” to the play. The script was very well written. Very well done!!

**Emily**

#### **Grade four and five**

#### **Performance at Dundurn Castle *March 27, 2012***

I liked puppets, props, creativity, the use of history, the originality, the scenery and I disliked that you had only 2 backgrounds ; overall 99%

**Bella**

I liked how the puppets were and looked so real and had personality of the real characters. What I think should improve? I think they should not have shown the people holding these puppets.

**4 out 5 stars Abby**

I liked this play with puppets because it has historical part and the puppets were very realistic; also, because the lighting, scenery and props were very well done. I did not disliked anything about this play.

**Marina**

I liked the play because I liked the puppets and I liked the puppets because I liked the costumes.

**Innessa**

I really liked the costumes and the puppets were really good looking because they were made by the group who put the puppet play on.

**10/10 Clara**

What I would have wanted is that the actors were not seen so it looked more real.

**4 and ½ out of 5 Westley**

I really liked this play because:

1. I really got into it. It was like I was actually in that time.
2. I really liked the costumes.
3. I liked how you set it up. Overall I loved it!!!

**Kallan**