



US AND THEM A SUCCESSFUL HIT!

Review by Jeep (Grade 12)

On November 28th, the joint play between RIST and Middle School, *Us and Them*, was a successful hit. Showing at the PAC, at 9:35am and 11:30am, the exotic music and whimsical dances would make the production a theatrical experience like no other the school has ever seen.

The setting was simple enough – two platforms on each side of the stage, and in the back a curious painting. Added with the various colors that lighted the space, the mood fit harmoniously with the content of the play itself. Despite the lively dancing and verbal comedy that took place, the theme behind *Us and Them* is rather similar to that of *Lord of the Flies* – and it ties in well with much of what exists in school and the political events surrounding the country.

The characters, the drumming, and the picture in the background took the audience to a jungle, very much like Africa, where the play begins. A group of people begin bickering about territorial rights, and separate each other into two groups, eventually forging a wall between them. After some time, growing suspicion of



each other spread through both of the groups, and surmised that they were plotting against them. The wall was torn down, war erupted, and after an impressive battle, they realized they were exactly the same. A fitting end, well staged, to add; the choreography of the battle wasn't too complicated nor simple – only spectacular.

What was evidently commendable was the nature of the play. Dance and music, led by much energy, governed the play, and so it was constantly engaging. However, the performance was not entirely without its flaws. At times, dialogue was either muffled or unclear despite its fitting volume – a compromise brought upon by talking at the same time as doing an action. And this does not apply to the narration some of the characters give; nervousness did hasten the speed with which they spoke, eventually leading to the muffled or unclear dialogue of that similar respect. Considering how the play progresses through storytelling, speech was an essential feature. But, being acted by a group of young and promising actors, they show great potential, and the production was still a success.

Personally, I enjoyed the play very much – it was worth spending my free block to have watched. As an avid theatre-goer, *Us & Them* may have been a bit short, but it was an enthralling and satisfyingly energetic play, with strong music and a strong motif behind it. A solid A-!