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Society : Potters Bar Theatre Company
Production : 9-5 The Musical
Date : Thursday 28th April 2016
Venue : Wylliots Theatre
Report by : Michael Monk

Show Report

After a very warm welcome, to what is my first Musical review as your new NODA representative. Having previously worked with this company 3 years ago I had high expectations. I am very pleased to report I was not disappointed.

Director DAVID MACKLIN, assisted by ROSEMARY MACKLIN, is to be congratulated on a very slick and well-rehearsed production. Choreography by ELLA-LOUISE MARTIN produced well drilled ensemble numbers. I particularly liked the dream sequence numbers. The set, supplied by SCENIC PROPERTIES, looked very good and fresh and all the various scenes moved quickly from one to another, except Hart's office scene which was a little cumbersome, by Stage Manager FRANK BUNDLE, ably assisted by crew JOHN ABSOLON, TERRY WEINNERT, LINDA WILLIAMSON, PETER VINER and various cast members.

Musical Direction in the experienced hands of DEBORAH KEMP only enhanced the production more. Company singing was very good, with clear diction and some beautiful harmonies coming through. The balance between orchestra and stage was just perfect. I particularly liked the fairy wand baton for the dream numbers. Nice touch!

Lighting Design and Operation by STEVE BATES was very well executed with area and mood lighting giving the right ambience throughout. I did feel 'Backwards Barbie' and 'Heart to hart' would have been better served with plain front of house lighting, for the solos, as their faces were obscured by design gobos during these numbers.

Sound was in the very experienced hands of PHIL STANNARD and all on cue. The balance between orchestra pit and performer was executed very well indeed.

Costumes – THE COSTUME STORE - All the costumes supplied were all very suitable for everyone's character and the period. All managed very well by GERALDINE WEINERT assisted by CHRISTINE GRAY, JENNY COLLEDGE, BABS PHILPOT and additional dressers JULIE COX, ELLE JACKSON, DOREEN WEBSTER and ALEX MIHAIOVIC.

Set Dressing & Props – CHRISTINA TAKKIDES, HELEN GREEN and JULIE MARKEY – All the props and set dressings were well managed and very appropriate for the time period.

Make-up & Hair – JULIE COX – All wigs very appropriate for the period and good make up for the ladies. However, there was very little evident of make up on some of the men's faces making them rather pale and drawn under the stage lights. I know men usually balk at wearing it but it is necessary under harsh stage lights to give a more natural appearance.

Franklyn J Hart – DAVID BOTTOMLEY – A very accomplished performer adding the perfect tyrannical, sexist attributes required for this character. Good vocals. I particularly enjoyed 'Here for You'.

Violet Newstead – ANDREA POLLINGTON, Judy Bernly – SARAH BREARLY and Doralee Rhodes – LORRAINE BOTTOMLEY. Potters Bar Theatre Company are indeed very fortunate to have such a wealth of talent with these ladies. All perfectly cast in their roles. Great vocal harmonies in their rendition of 'I Just Might'. I was relieved when Violet's wig was clipped back in the second half, as it did mask her face when standing in profile. Outstanding highlights for me were the 'Dream numbers' and Judy's rendition of 'Get out and Stay out'.

Roz Keith – SHARON LOTTARI – What a gem of a role! Strong performance from a very accomplished comedic character actress. 'Heart to Hart' musical number I just didn't want to end!

Joe – RICHARD JACKSON – A very confident performance. Lovely duet with Violet 'Let Love Grow'. Make up would have helped, you looked very pale under the stage lighting.

Dwayne – JORGE FRUTUOSO – A very nice cameo role giving good support to Doralee. Loved the boots and tongue in cheek wig!

Tinsworthy – DERECK CROSS – A small but masterful role from another confident performer.

Josh Newstead – GEORGE ROWLANDS – Good performance from someone so young. I shall look forward to the future roles Josh plays to see how this young performer develops further.

Other smaller roles – Missy – JENNY COLLEDGE, Maria – LISA LARGE, Dick Bernly – PAUL LARGE, Bob – COLIN RICARDO, Kathy – CHRISTINE LE COUILLIARD, Margaret – MICHELLE WILLIAMS and Candy Striper – DEBRA CONSTANTINO-BELL. All performed and supported the rest of the cast very well indeed in their own individual way.

The programme, JO and PAUL BRADY, was extremely well presented and very informative.

Thank you once again for your very kind welcome and hospitality.

Best wishes

Michael Monk
Regional Representative
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