

BMYP - BEDAZZLED – REDGRAVE THEATRE

26 JULY 2013

Directed and Choreographed by Vicki Klein and Tina Kelly
Musical Director – Kerrie Duce

Bedazzled, and we were, first of all by Daniel Dean and his slick and polished magic and illusions, he kept the pace of the show going at breakneck speed. With his comic patter and encouraging the audience to join in. This was a show that was worthy of Las Vegas with it's stunning costumes and singing and dancing by this multi talented cast. At all times the cast were smiling, full of energy and enthusiasm, and with all the many changes it must have been a nightmare backstage. But at all times the cast looked relaxed and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Shows like this are difficult to write a critique on, if I mention every single person, it could run to several pages long, and if I mention some members of the cast and not others, they may feel upset and left out, so I will start by saying that everyone one of you is a star, and you are all part of the multi talented team. So if I don't mention you by name I ask you to forgive me.

SET

Congratulations to Alison Faulkner on a very simple and effective multi purpose set, it was very colourful and all changes were carried out quietly and efficiently

MUSIC

I feel I must mention that I prefer live music, but I realise that sometimes cost comes into the equation. The only problem with CD music is that the cast has to keep going, and once or twice they had to catch up with the song, and there were times that we lost dialogue or the start of another song because the audience were applauding the previous number – the other problem is things can go wrong with this type of backing. At times the music was a little loud and drowned out some of the singers.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Vicki Klein and Tina Kelly had the problem with the fact that there were so many different routines. As always the dancing was of a high standard and for the most part the cast were always together. However I did feel that the in the first half of the show there were occasions when they were not always together and it did look a little under rehearsed, this did not occur in the second half. But with a show that is all singing and dancing these things can happen.

SOUNDS

As I did mention in the music section at times it was a little loud and drowned out some of the singers. This was especially noticeable when the snow machines were on we lost most of the words of the songs at that point.

LIGHTING

At all times the cast were well lit and the many changes of mood and scene were handled well with the many different colours. Well done

COSTUMES

Congratulations to all who were involved with providing the many costumes, with such a stunning array of colour, they were a visual feast for the eyes, I must mention the White Christmas costumes especially these really stood out.

THE CAST

With so many shows to choose from, they all had one thing in common, the magic of musicals. From the 1930's to modern day each section showed the talents of the individuals and groups. There were some outstanding performances, both in singing and dancing.

The show opened with Daniel setting the scene for the evening, with the magic box which seemed to contain girl after girl .who then went into the routine of **"Putting on the Ritz"** The next selection came from **"Beauty and the Beast"** Aaron has a pleasant voice but did not have the range or depth to bring the emotional build up to the song **"I can't love her"** Excellent chorus work for **"Be our Guest"** and a well sung **"Tale as old as time"** by Helen James.

We were then treated to a Rock and Roll section with Tom Royall leading the way with **"Rock around the Clock"** with a good strong voice and enthusiasm, he was followed by Emily Kelly, Sophie Scroggs, Lois Kitchen and Millie Reynolds with strong voices told the tale of **"Leader of the Pack"** . Daniel and the chorus got the party going with **"Let's Twist Again"** and this was followed by the Children with **"Little Darlin'"** this was well choreographed, but at times the music was a little loud. Next we were treated to a trip through the seasons with good chorus work on **"Here comes the Sun and Walking on Sunshine"** and an excellent set with **"Good Morning and Singing in the Rain"** taking us into Winter with **"Let it Snow and White Christmas"** stunningly costumed, and sung the only problem was that the snow machines drowned out the singing at times.

The second half opened with a selection from BMYP's production of **"Cats"** this was excellently performed and costumed and was as good as the original show. The next selection gave Daniel opportunities as the Wizard of Oz and an outstanding performance from Sophie Thorne as Dorothy with **"Over the Rainbow"** ably supported by Thom Wilde (Tinman), Eammon Buckley (Lion) and Jonas Kellgren Hayes (Scarecrow) all with good strong voices and dancing. Once again magic played a part in **"Mary Poppins"** as she produced a spade and a nail from her valise. There was an excellent routine from the Sweeps, Bert. Mary Poppins and the children with **"Step in Time and Supercalifragilistic"**. Magical effects also played a part in the next selection from **"Aladdin"** with a levitating Princess, I was a little disappointed there wasn't a magic carpet. Daniel proved that he could not only perform magic but also sing with **"A Friend like me"** More stunning costumes brought this section to an end with **"Prince Ali"** There was more magic in the selection from **"Matilda"**, Ella Khanna has good stage presence and a strong voice and played the part of Matilda with great enjoyment. Good supporting singing and dancing from the Chorus. And this ended with the cross dressing Miss Trunchball played with great enthusiasm by Thom Wilde having her/his head chopped off.

The last selection took numbers from **“Guys and Dolls”** and Emily Cook has a strong personality and with her girls they were obviously enjoying themselves with **“Bushell and a Peck”** The Evening ended with **“Don’t Stop me Now”** which brought the show to a rousing finish with the audience joining in, carried along with the sheer infectious energy (which was still evident after all the dancing, singing and many changes that they has gone through) The cast are to be congratulated for an outstanding show which was just as good as any Las Vegas show.

CHORUS

The Chorus are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm, and managing to keep smiles on their face at all times with the many changes and different songs and dance routines by the end of the evening they must have been worn out, but never once did the pace drop. Good strong singing and excellent dancing this chorus worked as one at all times.

CHILDREN

These were the aah factor of the show, and they played this to the hilt, there are some talented children here, at all times they had big smiles on their faces and really looked as though they were enjoying themselves. Whenever they were on they worked together and looked as though they were relaxed and at home on the stage. Congratulations.

Once again thank you for an excellent evening’s entertainment, which was different from the usual show. Congratulations to Vicki Klein, Tina Kelly and Kerrie Duce for all the hard work you put into the show which showed in the outstanding cast. Also congratulations to all the people backstage whether painting scenery, making costumes or make-up you are the unseen heroes of the evening.

Once again thank you for the warm welcome and hospitality as always front of house. I look forward to being invited to your next production.

Tony Winstone
NODA Representative – District 13

