

Society :- Woodfield Entertainers
Show. :- A Directors Cut
Venue. :- Ashstead Peace Memorial Hall Ashstead Surrey
Date. :-Thursday 17th May 2018
Producer :- Simon Gadd

This their annual May production of the Woodfield Entertainers was well received by an enthusiastic audience.

I received such a warm welcome from the Front of House team considering it was only my second visit I felt like the return of the Prodigal Son.

The light supper at the interval most enjoyable as was the glass of wine and I was pleased to see that Vegetarians were also catered for.

While the Programme was enough to give details of the Show and cast etc. I felt that the it was a bit back to front and perhaps could have include photographs of the cast which from my point of view would have made it easier to identify individuals which would have allowed me to give praise etc to those worthy of it. The show got off to a good start with Neil Edwards and Tim Waters as the Blues Brothers with Everybody Needs Somebody followed by 634-5789 also from the Blues Brothers. Hannah Davidson and Claire Webb offering a punchy rendition of this number.

The lively dance routine was really brought to life when the fourth Lady? adding a bit humour in the unshapely form of Jaymie Tribe. I believe his first time on stage.

Tracy Gillard started off the first of a number of sketches as Septic Peg with great amusement and plenty of B_ _ _s even if it was only a Crystal one.

The Photo Shot Sketch while slightly amusing I felt was just put in as a filler and may have been better if it was slotted in somewhere else.

The Lloyd Webber number a hit for BoysZone while performed well I feel it's more suited for a male group. The harmony was there with the exception of one voice.

Tim and Neil reminded me of some of the diabolical Wrestling Matches I have seen certainly not up to the standard of George Kidd (World Champion) but just below that of Mick Mc Manus. Well done lads highly amusing.

We are Young led by Hannah and Amalee demonstrated the quality of the singing within the group as a whole and was appreciated by the audience.

Neil Morecambe (Edwards) and Laura Wise (Hillier) brought back happy memories for that great comedy couple almost to a T! I could have gone for more. The paper bag trick is a classic.

When I was 7 years Old. Denise Hiller gave a sweet rendition of this nostalgic song by Lucas Graham not one I have heard before.

From The Little Shop of Horrors :- Mean Green Mother was spoiled by a technical fault with the Microphone. So I was pleased to hear it again later in the week and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The second half opened with a bang with Happy Days bringing the whole cast on stage highlighting the talent within the group. Anyone who wanted to sleep after their supper didn't have a chance when this lively number started.

No More War. All I can say about this sketch noisy slightly amusing and made a political point.

The trio of Neil Edwards, Hannah Davidson and Cara Turner blended beautifully in this lively number of Walking To Memphis.

James and Eileen Close as Robber and Bank Teller bouncing written demands back and forward with witty comments. Eventually the teller turning on the tears and getting the better of the soft hearted robber. Needless to say the Robber coming of worst as men usually do. Good clean fun.

Hannah, Amalee, Laura and Cara with Sax - Fleur East Version again revealing the quality of the group singing within this company.

Even CCTV would not have televised this funny but crude Children's Cupboard sketch. Neil portraying all that was bad in CCTV in an over the TOP Sketch aided bravely by Tim, Hannah and the Puppet.

The Finally:- Bohemian Rhapsody what a great number to conclude the show with the whole cast in harmony. One of the highlights of the Show was James Close's impression of Freddy Mercury. Not the best I have seen but without doubt the funniest.

Comments :- First time Producer Simon Gadd and his team made a good job of the Production and if Simon would like to go further I would recommend The NODA Theatre Summer School at Yarnfield Park even for just a visit detail on the NODA Website.

The Narrator Denise Hillier although she came across quite clear the constant flicking of her hair, fumbling with her glasses and looking at the script was slightly off putting.

I know it is difficult back stage with lack of space but there was more noise back stage than the moving of props.

I am being Super critical and I know it's not easy to work with recorded music but there were a few times the music was slightly ahead of the singing and to start the volume almost drowned out the words. Other than that I still enjoyed the show and look forward to your Pantomime.

Harry Cumming
Assistant NODA Rep.