

NODA Review

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

THE PRODUCERS

Directed by Amy Trigg

Musical Director Thomas Duchan

Choreographer Loiose Lachance

Performed at Witham Public Hall 29th October 2015

This is a show which struggles to get audiences and I have known many societies which have failed on counts of both finance and artistic presentation. How delighted I am to say that Witham does not fall into that category and they deserve all the praise that this critique delivers.

When the overture stuck up, I feared that the singers were to be drowned out but this superb orchestra was always under control and delivered expertly on all counts. Then, when the curtain went up, I was disappointed to see a plain black stage and thought that I would soon get fed up of it – not a bit! Once the plot started to unfold, one was so immersed in it that the 'blackness' just disappeared. And how well the actors portrayed their roles! I could list each and every one but would require a long list of superlatives as all delivered an interpretation of their role of which they, and the society, can be very proud. In the scene in which Leo & Max meet, over-acting is the order of the day and this was played to perfection. So easy to cross that very fine line but this was not the case here. Brilliant!

The principal line-up could not have been bettered and, for that reason, I'm singling no one out. The dancing girls delivered high quality output of some pretty complicated and challenging dances and the ensemble coped well when they were involved. This show gives lots of opportunities for people to take small parts and they too can be complimented. Costuming, hair and make-up all made the desired impact and the lighting, whilst not being too challenged provided what was necessary. Follow spots were slightly wayward on occasion but the sound was first rate. All in all, this was an outstanding piece of theatre and one of which WAOS can be justly proud. Thanks for a superb evening's entertainment.

Eric Smart