

## Braintree and Witham Times Review

### **GUYS and DOLLS**

This is a musical built on contrasts. The contrast between Sarah and Sky, the two main characters, is balanced by that between the two of them and the story's other main couple, Nathan and Adelaide. And then there's Nicely-Nicely Johnson, a law unto himself. The story also contrasts change and continuity. While Sarah and Sky start from positions that are miles apart and somehow meet in the middle, little changes in the world of Nathan and Adelaide. She still wants to get married; he still insists on prolonging their 14-year engagement. All of which gives the actors plenty to get their teeth into and as usual, WAOS's stars grab that opportunity with gusto.

In a sharply defined performance, Corinna Wilson takes prim and proper Sarah to the outskirts of debauchery and back again while Gareth Gwyn Jones neatly brings out Sky's brash then tender sides.

But the comedy and the juicy lines mostly fall to Michael Mundell-Poole as Nathan and Deborah Anderson as Adelaide. Mundell-Poole's ducking and diving and Anderson's wonderful feistiness in adversity form much of the show's backbone.

Nicely-Nicely is one of musical theatre's classic characters and Stewart Adkins has great fun with him, extracting the maximum from every line.

His Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat is one of the crowd-pleasers in a show full of well known songs – Bushel and a Peck, If I Were A Bell, Luck Be a Lady Tonight etc – and lively production numbers, which were well marshalled by director Jacqui Tear and musical director Geoff Osborne.

**Review by Ron Fosker**