

NODA Review Return to the Forbidden Planet

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

Directed by Claire Carr

Musical Director James Tovey

Dance Captain Constance Lawson

Performed at Witham Public Hall 26th April 2017 (matinee)

What an amazingly spirited show with all the songs of the 50/60s at full volume and with great energy throughout. This show was a terrific production from WAOS. Under the direction of Claire Carr in her first with this company, the show moved well, with verve and real pace from all on stage.

Stewart Adkins as Doctor Prospero was excellent, his lower range of voice suited his songs and the dialogue, which in this production had really to be listened to intently, was delivered with great meaning.

Matched in performance was David Everest-Ring as Captain Tempest. He was on stage virtually all through the show, and very well cast in this flamboyant character with another super voice. Harry Tunningley as Cookie has a remarkable feel for timing and with a very strong singing voice gave us a super interpretation.

Tim Clarke as Ariel the Robot (on roller skates) had the audience enthralled with all his great songs and it was another first class performance with terrific make up and costume.

All the ladies, from Emma Loring as Bosun, Diana Easton as Gloria, Claire Rowe as Miranda and Rhianna Howard as Navigation Officer, sang so well with some very demanding vocals, especially from Gloria who stormed the part. Dancers were super, both ladies and guys and they all smiled!!! Terrific! What joy!

The lighting and set design all through excelled and gave such a lift to the production. This show just kept on giving with interesting happenings all the time.

The costumes I must mention at this point; vivid and colourful, totally in the theme of the show, with make-up and hair and on-stage commitment from the entire cast in this production.

I must commend James Tovey as Musical Director, with his talented band who kept a solid backup to the cast with some really great sounds from all the musicians. Super guitar solo and drums, with just a super sound to accompany the songs. First Class!!

I honestly could have watched this show again it was so good. People who missed this show missed a treat as the standard was so high.

Thank you so much for a terrific evening's entertainment from FOH right through to everyone whether on or off stage. We appreciated it all very much.