

NODA

WITHAM A. O. S. - SOUTH PACIFIC

Director & Choreographer: Cathy Court,

Musical Director: Geoff Osborne

Despite a rather unconvincing 'Dites Moi' at the start, the developing relationship between the admirably played de Becque and a slightly restrained Nellie soon focussed an audience interest that continued throughout. Bloody Mary had plenty of the down to earth fire needed and was a formidable saleswoman, and mother! Nothin' Like a Dame came over well but perhaps needed a touch more eagerness and energy.

I was impressed by the military relationships displayed which had a convincing air of reality for that situation, Bracket and Harbison did well here. Billis was on fine form, and I understand that his coconut brain a rumbustious Honey Bun was the one he used when he last played Billis in... well, the last time.

Cable sang the number well enough though his relationship with Liat did not really show the wonder and enthusiasm that it could have done. Nellie opened up in 'Wonderful Guy' and 'Wash that Man' and both numbers came across well. Tension was well developed in the radio shack scenes, as it was by de Becque and Nellie around the colour issue. This was really well done.

The scenery was good though it was a bit disappointing that the same backcloth served both the View across the sea to Bali Hai and also from the beach at Bali Hai. Orchestral accompaniment was fine except for the occasional overloud underscore. Overall this was a good and well-acted production with the story(s) coming across with conviction and real feeling to a well satisfied audience.

Report by John Warburton — Regional Councillor