

Oklahoma

DATE	25th April 2013
SOCIETY	Witham Amateur Operatic Society
VENUE	Witham Public Hall
TYPE OF PRODUCTION	Musical
DIRECTOR	Robyn Gowers
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Geoff Osborne
CHOREOGRAPHER	Robyn Gowers

Report

Author: Ann Platten

An excellent production from Witham AOS with some great musical numbers and very believable characters well played.

I thought the balance between orchestra and voices exceptionally good in this production and certainly, the chorus numbers were well sung with some very pleasing harmony singing.

The set of Aunt Eller's house was rather like a small colonial style and served for a great deal of the time for the cast for exits and entrances. The smoke house was quite the largest I have ever seen and rather grand for Jud Fry perhaps?

Great performances by Corrina Wilson as Laurey with a lovely fresh voice and Gareth Gwyn Jones as a masculine Curly again sung beautifully. In fact, all the principal characters were super with some great direction and style to the show from Robyn.

Stewart Adkins as Jud Fry was superb. One scary man made his interpretation of this lone man so menacing; both songs "Pore Jud" and "Lonely Room" were deeply touching and quite poignant, sung with a deep, deep voice. One of the best interpretations of Jud I have seen, in a star performance. All the duets were super with each couple from a delightful Ado Annie from Abigail Lowman and a lively Will Parker from Michael Watling, a entertaining Ali Hakim from James Simpson through to a cheerful Aunt Eller played by Anne Wilson with great dancing skills and use of her dialogue.

All smaller cameo parts were supportive and well cast.

Nice bright costumes and good dancing all added to a most enjoyable production.

Well done to Robyn in her debut with the society directing, also the entire production team for a most enjoyable evening.

It is always good to see the forthcoming shows planned, audiences will appreciate both shows during 2013-2014.