

SWEET CHARITY

Braintree & Witham Times

Witham Amateur Operatic Society, took a huge risk in choosing. Sweet Charity for their autumn production. The title role of charity demands a singer who can dance and act all the action centres on her, and she is scarcely offstage .

With the school that bounces with vitality, the show was originally conceived as a vehicle for the dancer Gwen Verdon.

Last week. It was a triumph for Katherine Adkins as charity from the opening scene she captivated the audience with her dancing has singing was excellent throughout the show and she engaged our sympathy as we followed the ups and downs of her love life.

Sweet Charity is the tale of an ever optimistic Dancehall hostess, whose generosity is matched by her eagerness to be loved and find a husband.

The script by Neil Simon takes disastrous situations and makes them funny. Charity does not conform to the cynical worthiness of all the other hostesses, the girls led by Beth Flatley and Natalie Hawkes developed their seductive individuality well and provided excellent backing for charity in numbers like hey big Spender, clever choreography by director, Cynthia Stead made the most of the space and the abilities of all the dancers.

The chorus was particularly effective in the nightclub scene where their dramatic costumes in black and white added to the impact of the movement.

Their singing was complimented by the lively playing of the orchestra under the direction of Geoff, Osborne and Simon Lovell

In her scene with Richard Cohen, as Vittorio, a fading film star charity was at her happiest as she sang If My Friends Could See Me Now.

The scene in the lift with neurotic Oscar played by Tim Clarke was hilarious.

Witham Amateur Operatic Society again, managed to produce a polished and entertaining show.

James Bright