

## BWT Report

The Addams Family  
Witham Amateur Operatic Society  
Witham Public Hall  
April 27 – May 2

It takes some time to tune in to this somewhat curious concoction. But the inverted values of the family in question soon became clear with lines such as 'It's what every Addams hopes for: darkness, grief and unspeakable sorrow' and 'I remember the day she poisoned me. No one else cared enough to try.'

Such bizarreness gave the cast full rein for wilder characterisation and they attacked it joyously, with Edward Groombridge, as 103-year-old Grandma and Trevor Marks as Fester, the brother having a love affair with the Moon, in particularly twinkling form.

Corrina Wilson lets rip in a wonderful cameo as Alice Beineke while Ashton Reed and Ed Tunningley, fresh from their leading roles in February's WOW production of *Our House*, bring quirkiness and confusion to the young couple.

Ten-year-old Fraser McLauchlan showed maturity in the role of the put-upon little brother while Constance Lawton has the appropriate stony-faced reserve as Morticia, behind whose cool exterior beats a heart of ice.

But most of the responsibility rests on the shoulders of Stewart Adkins. In a career of 57 varieties – that is how many WAOS shows he has been in – he is hidden beneath wig, moustache and Spanish-Transylvanian accent and can seldom have had such a delicious part as Gomez, who dominates the stage whenever he is on it.

Inevitably, he rises to the occasion, as do the whole cast where the Addams' attire (black, naturally) contrasts with the wide variety of paleness in the zombie chorus. Together with some clever lighting effects, it draws us seductively into the world of the Addams Family.

Ron Fosker