

OVATION RADIO

'VOCALLY MIND BLOWING!'

Last night we had the pleasure of being invited along to the opening night of Witham Operatic Society's latest production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber & the Tim Rice classic Jesus Christ Superstar, playing at The Witham Public Hall until the 25th April.

There is something amazing about being able to support and collaborate with so many different Community Arts groups, but JCS is not an easy one to pull off with the vocals alone being incredibly challenging, but Witham Operatic (WAOS) have created something incredibly special.

The difficulty also lies in the tight turn around from tech, to dress run, to opening night. The set has a mix of expectation, with the use of balcony & graffiti enhancements. The lighting has a few beautifully constructed moments & the sound struggled slightly, especially with enhancing the diction, but it won't be long before they get the mix in hand.

The entire company threw everything they had into their production, the atmosphere was electric & the nerves were running a little high, but settled down as everyone got into the run. The pace ebbed a little between numbers, but the momentum soon built after a tentative start.

The vocals from this company are exquisite with their own take & interpretation at times which was refreshing to see on stage. The company took the score & made it their own.

Simon Possee & Stewart Adkins as Caiaphas & Annas gave brilliant portrayals with stunning vocals. Michael Mundell-Poole as King Herod was superb, his 'rocketman' interpretation was genius (mini spoiler). Leanne Barber as Mary gave a raw & honest portrayal. With I dont know How to Love Him a real highlight. Michael Bardo is every inch Judas, with soaring vocals, which gave a vulnerability to his portrayal. Tom Pleasant hit every mark as Jesus, and Gethsemane left the audience speechless. You could hear a pin drop as the piece concluded.

WAOS has created a strong piece with many memorable moments. The audience loved it & you can see how much the company loved being a part of every second. Well worth a visit.