

Take 2 Theatre School (Seniors) - 42nd Street

Producer Geoff Whitfield

MD Iain Price

Choreography Sue Dring/Duncan Bagshaw

Every time I visit this group I find it more difficult to write something different because of the high quality of performance of the young cast. Karl Brennan gave a strong performance as Julian Marsh in a veritable 'no nonsense' manner. Sue Dring as Dorothy Brook showed the true bitchiness of a prima donna reaching the end of her career and being replaced by an inexperienced younger performer. I took a highly qualified teacher and experienced musician with me and he was truly amazed at what the young people achieved. Enough said.

Wombwell & District AOS : September Serenade

Producer Josephine Owen

MD Julia Fellows

As the programme tells us this is the 15th annual 'September Serenade', an amalgam of songs from the musical theatre performed to the high standard we expect from this versatile group. The company set out to entertain the public and the public responded by showing their complete satisfaction with great enthusiasm. Certain items I noted as worth individual mention were – 'Thank you for the music', 'A heart full of love', 'Stars' and 'On my own' and the group of ladies deserved praise for 'The way we were'.

Rotherham Teachers Student Academy - High School Musical II

Principal Dee Bennie-Marshall

Music Teacher Heather Jackson

Dance Teacher Dee Bennie-Marshall

After their rip-roaring success with HSM I and at Disneyland – Paris, here we were to see the sequel performed in the lovely compact St Anne's Studio Theatre. The razz-matazz was all there, lots of vigour and enthusiasm from a superb batch of young people. Some had played parts in HSM I but didn't have the same parts this time, which demonstrated the varying capabilities they each have. The application and dedication put into this production by Dee, Heather and Rachel Marshall made this a production 'par excellence', magnificent. Well done to you all.

Take 2 Theatre Company - The Likes of Us

Producer Geoff Whitfield

MD Iain Price

Choreographer Sue Dring

This show gives the producer a practically blank canvas to work with and therefore needs a producer with great flair and imagination who is capable of drawing on all resources at their disposal. The voice over of the narration worked with good effect and did not interfere with the smooth running of the show. The parts of Barnado and Syrie – namely Martin Cooper and Julie Whitfield – were played with enlightened understanding which added greatly to the success of this production. The young members of the company appeared dedicated and performed with enthusiasm.

Dinnington OS - The Wizard of Oz

Director – Kirstie Probert

MD – Andrew Collis

Choreographer – Olivia Egan

This was Kirstie's first step into show direction, applying the knowledge and skills she had acquired at a NODA Summer School. As a first it showed great potential for the future. It appears she did have second thoughts but realized that all she needed was 'a brain, a good heart and a bucketful of courage'. Well done Kirstie. A good performance from Isabel Canning as Dorothy, delightful children as always and why is it that when men are completely hidden in a 'wild' costume they relax and give exceptional performances – i.e. Tinman, Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion. Great show – great evening.

South Yorkshire MCS - Anything Goes

Producer Alex Wilkins

MD Natalie Bryant

Choreographer Ann Rutherford

The society decided to add two new members to their production team – Ann, an experience choreographer with other societies but a first with this group – and Alex as producer - with several years and numerous principal roles behind him he has turned his hand to production with great success. The cast performed well and Tim Rutherford's comedy antics made him a 'wow' with the audience in the part of Eli Whitney.

It was a delight to meet up and have a chat with Fred Panther, a society life member, still going strong at 102 years of age.

Rotherham Teachers OS - Footloose

Director Dee Bennie-Marshall

MD Heather Jackson

Choreographer Dee Bennie-Marshall

This society is in the lucky situation of having an exceptionally capable youth group who are starting to put their talents to use in the parent society. The show requires lots of modern movement and this is where director Dee excels - she can get young people to do what they had no idea they could do. This action was counterbalanced with strong performances from more experienced players. An exciting production, with a clever underlying story.

Take 2 TC - Anything Goes

Producer Geoff Whitfield

This production 'oozed' experience from the major players, producing more laughs than I thought existed in this show. David Wrightam, seen previously as a strong, staid Henry Higgins in 'My Fair Lady', to appear as Moonface Martin gave a performance to bring the house down. Sir Evelyn – Martin Cooper – played so wonderfully over the top – would have done justice to PG Wodehouse and, as usual, the exceptional talents of Julie Whitfield as Reno Sweeney never faltered. The production made one so glad to be a follower of musical theatre.

Lamproom MTC in association with The Lamproom TC, LYTE, The LamLYTErs and the Friends of the Lamproom Theatre - Mr Scrooge

Director Martin Lees

MD Maria Willis

Choreographer Danielle Robinson

The Dickens' Christmas story was nicely arranged by John Kelly, using some established Christmas music plus others. The narration by Gary Burgin as Mr Dickens was carried out with great depth of feeling and Bill Moss gave an outstanding performance in the title role. Another good performance was given by Will Bisby as the Ghost of Christmas Present. The children, as always, added the 'oh' factor.

Goole AODS - Showtime

Producer Doreen M Chappell MBE

The society, under the leadership of Doreen Chappell, has, in the last 12 months, been beset with innumerable problems. Their performance venue for 40 years closed with no apparent alternative. A new theatre, 'The Junction', opened and became available but with dressing room facilities for only 24, caused problems for a cast of 50+, with no facilities for scenery or props. Undeterred Doreen and her team managed to entertain us with 'Showtime' - a medley of well presented songs and choruses. How wonderful to see such a talented new generation coming along, from those with a wealth of experience, to a 7 year old appearing for the first time in public without a care in the world. The patrons of Goole were presented with a memorable evening's entertainment.

It was with great sadness that in the spring of 2009 Doreen had the worst blow of all with the death of her husband – Arnold – his contribution to this society was immense, though not a performer. For over 50 years he was a Committee Member, Secretary and Chairman, giving stability and a steady hand at the tiller – a true gentleman and a holder of the NODA Gold Bar.

Wombwell & District AOS - Season's Greetings

Director Sue Gent

MD Julia Fellows

One always enjoys the Christmas party atmosphere here at the Operatic Centre and up to their usual standard, we were pleasantly entertained with an extremely colourful and delightful medley of Christmas songs and carols by soloists, duets, et al. A wonderful beginning to the festive season.

Wombwell & Dist. A.O.S. - Aladdin

Director: Les Smith.

M.D.: Jasmine Gillespie.

After fighting colds and flu and missed rehearsals due to bad weather the society managed with great success to entertain us with this Graham Barraclough pantomime. An unusually small audience (bad weather again) but with enough enthusiasm to make the rafters ring. Katie Winnell was a confident Aladdin - both verbally and musically. The comedy providers, Widow Twankey, Wishee Washee and the policemen Ping and Pong did all they should and had the audience in stitches. Wozi the Wazir - Jonathon Wakeford - a young man whose performance was carried with great aplomb - Oh yes it was!