

## **Bradford Youth Players (Seniors) - Fiddler on the Roof**

Producer & Musical Director Ian Sapiro

Director Kris Vogelsang

Choreographer Kathryn Tonks

The 'Tradition' of 'Fiddler' was excellently upheld when this cast, without exception, gave a very polished intelligent performance; understanding and demonstrating the struggle between developing changes and the old ways of Jewish life in Russia in the early 1900s. They were not young people acting parts on a stage, they became the villagers of Anatevka. The choreography fitted with the ethos and the harmony singing was perfectly balanced, both on stage and with the orchestra. Make-up and costumes were good, especially shoes and the simple set quickly and easily adapted to all its necessary forms. In his monologues Tevye (Ben Eagle) extracted all the humour with the twinkle of his eyes and was perfectly balanced by his long suffering wife (Jodie Lowe) and loving daughters.

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## **Heaton AODS - When We Are Married**

Director Andrew Howorth

How lovely to see this Priestley play performed in its 'home' theatre in front of a good sized and appreciative audience. Some good characterizations especially from the bombastic Cllr Parker and his wife Annie (Alan and Helen Parkinson), the blustering Alderman Helliwell (Craig Deacon) and newcomer Charlotte Metcalfe as Ruby the maid. It would have been easy for the tipsy Henry Ormondroyd and Fred Dyson (Chris Birch and Gareth Watson) to overdo their characters but both were kept in tight control and were the funnier for it. A little more attention to detail of set, costume and wigs would have made this play more pleasing visually, however, this was a very enjoyable evening.

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## **Encore Shipley Theatre Company Ltd - Mein Bunker (report by Pam Booth)**

Written and Directed by Peter Aveyard

This was the first production by this enthusiastic and enterprising society and I thought it was very brave of them to tackle a totally new play. Hitler has apparently been frozen in a deep sleep and hidden in the cellars of Buckingham Palace where, when awoken, he forms a gang of robbers who become known to the public as 'The Robert Mugabe Gang'. We visited a very dubious night club with Prince Philip and met some very strange people there. There were some excellent performances but I would have preferred to have seen the cast in a more tried and tested play. Ambitious filming and sound effects worked well for the most part and the many scene changes didn't cause too many problems.

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## **Idle & Thackley Theatre Group - Rockella the Musical**

(Report by Marguerite Jennings)

Directors Alyson Hunter & Sara Devitt,

Choreographer Danielle Rice

The show was written by local writers Peter Aveyard, Gary Wood & Alyson Hunter about a young girl who wants to be a rock star. The cast were a mixture of young and up and coming actors and singers, supported by some experienced adults, with the result of a "great night out" - as promised. The set, lighting, sound and costumes were in keeping with the story - simple but effective. There was some good singing from the 2 young leads, Emma Louise Burton & Matthew Cook which augurs well for the future. The dancers looked good, were lively, energetic and committed. An entertaining show with, perhaps, the 2nd Act being more interesting than the 1st.

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## **Bradford Catholic Players - 42<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Director David Kirk

Musical Director Sylvia Dowgill

Choreographer Jacqui Drake Sweiss

Any amateur society that can play to a full house in a theatre the size of Bradford Alhambra is to be envied; but in this show every occupied seat was well and truly entertained by this large and very talented cast. The production held interest from the moment the curtain half rose to a busy selection of tapping feet to the fall at the end of a spectacular all singing and dancing finale. Good scenery, lighting and props enhanced by wigs and spectacular costumes, with their matching shoes, made this a super show to look at but it was the accompaniment of the orchestra and particularly the singing and the slick dancing routines of the whole cast that made this a show to remember.

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## **The Bradford Players - Aladdin**

Producer Ian Stephenson

Musical Director Anthony D Martin

Choreographer Paula Kelly

A fun and enjoyable evening was had by all in this production, cast and audience alike as somehow the two merged to become one in this well known story. Abanazer (Richard Whyte) with superb make-up was suitably villainous, Widow Twankey (Paul Wainwright) in his first performance as the 'Dame' played her with a slightly different and very acceptable slant. Her son Wishee Washee (Nicholas Burch), with his thick but easily understandable mock Chinese accent, was adored by all. The laundry scene in Act II was a joy to behold. All the other Principals, children, chorus and dancers provided a very suitable backing and the whole thing was wonderfully held together by Aladdin him/herself (Louise B Whyte) and was ably accompanied by the very competent band.

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## **Footnotes - Here Come the Girls**

Director, Choreographer & Musical Director Liz Storey

Accompanist Michael Gilroy

This Society is in the wonderful position of having more supporting members than it has on stage. Its prime objective is to provide financial support to the Bradford Cancer Support Centre and since the Society's conception in 1997 has raised the enviable sum of almost £20K. With a cast of four ladies, two men, three children and two very funny female commeres, all beautifully costumed, it kept a packed village hall well entertained with songs from the shows, sketches, humorous songs and almost 30 combined musical numbers with solos from all the cast. Highlights of the evening included the sketches 'Here Come the Birds' and 'The WI Calendar' and a lovely rendition of 'Mary's Boy Child' from 10 year old Sebastian Storey.