

Noda Review - Cinderella

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

CINDERELLA

Director Claire Carr

Musical Director Thomas Duchan

Choreographer Claire Carr

Performed at Witham Public Hall 26th October 2018

A first in District 11 with Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella" which WAOS did justice to with lavish costumes, excellent sets, and surprises along the way.

The principals were excellent and all cast well in their respective roles.

Aimee Hart in her debut with the society was a lovely Cinderella gracious to her Stepmother and Stepsisters who gave her such a hard time. Aimee sung very well together with Dannii Carr as Prince Christopher and it was a well paired couple. Dannii sung beautifully and looked every inch the dashing Prince to rescue Cinderella from her sad and lonely life with her Stepmother and Sisters.

Constance Lawson as Stepmother was perfect in this character. A seasoned performer with the company and a terrific range to her voice which made the most of all her solos and duets on excellent form.

The two Stepsisters Grace and Joy were a good double act and very funny with Rhianna Howard and Hatty Gribben, and together with their Mother made Cinderella's life very hard. Little did they realize how the drama would unfold and Cinderella had the last laugh.

Emma Loring as The Fairy Godmother was a delight to watch, such a lovely voice and with real commitment to her character. The stage lit up when she appeared. Well done Emma.

The King and Queen played by Tracey Hackett and Tom Whelan gave good account of their roles. Both stalwarts of the society in various roles, Tracey as F.O.House and Tom with a remarkable 37 shows with the company. Congratulations.

Darryl Warnaar as Lionel the Prince's Steward was also making his debut with the society and also making a return after many years to musical shows.

The costumes were the best I have seen on stage with everyone looking so good. The Choreography was so polished and well performed with all the company in many routines which was a pleasure to watch.

In this production the songs were not too well known but came over very well with both soloist's and ensemble work.

Thomas Duchan as Musical Director had a large Orchestra which was impressive. At times it tended to be rather loud especially with soloists but great tempo and sounds.

A lot of sets to move which kept the stage crew busy but all performed so well and seamlessly and quick it did not distract from the performance in any way. The many surprises including the gorgeous coach coming on stage, also brilliant lighting and effects were superb.

Many congratulations to the entire production team a great show all round.

Ann Platten