

## NODA Review

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

JACK THE RIPPER

Director Kerry King

Musical Director James Tovey

Choreographer Kerry King

Performed at the Witham Public Hall 3rd May 2014

This is a show that has been doing the rounds in District 11 but one which I still enjoy, with every production giving some new twists here and there from different directors' work.

A fairly quiet start just for a few moments with Witham AOS which then suddenly came to life with the whole ensemble's entrance with "Saturday Night".

I was very impressed with the balance of voices and orchestra here with some very intricate harmonies really coming through in the lively chorus numbers.

Despite having a rather sombre sounding title this show has some great music hall style numbers sung with gusto, very lively and fun to listen to and perform.

Some good characters from the Chairman played by David Slater, Montague Druitt played by Stewart Adkins and many other gentlemen playing a whole variety of roles very well.

Keiley Hall as Marie Kelly had great stage presence and feel for her character and her singing was excellent and absolutely in the period. Lovely costumes so in character here.

Emma Loring as Lizzie Stride/Queen Victoria moved from character to character with ease and was delightful in both. She had a real sense of fun and a lovely singing voice. I really enjoyed her interpretation of both roles.

There were so many other characters all adding to the story line with each character giving great support and the feeling of a "together" company show.

I did find that one of two of the main characters' dialogue was difficult to hear and there were a few issues with the sound which "boomed" here and there.

I assumed that all the soloists had head mikes and it was from the gentlemen this seemed to occur occasionally.

Great scenery and costumes which were so good.

Reviewer Ann Platten

District 11