

## Cinderella the Musical – WAOS, Witham Public Hall

This is not a common show, in fact, it is one that is hardly ever done and not very well known, despite it coming from the musical icons – Rodgers and Hammerstein.

This was such a refreshing change for the normal round of musicals and so well presented by Witham Amateur Operatic Society. We all know the story of Cinderella and this enchanting version does not disappoint.

Cinderella was played beautifully by Aimee Hart. Aimee embodied the demure, kind and downtrodden scullery maid but with a natural air of beauty and a voice that matched her looks. She was everything that every little girl imagines Cinderella to be and was perfectly matched against her handsome Prince Charming, Danni Carr. Danni also sang beautifully and was the regal prince with a heart. They looked great together and were both just 'charming'!

Tracey Hackett as Queen Constantine and Tom Whelan as King Maximillian worked well together as Charming's parents and both looked very regal in their respective roles.

Darryl Warnaar as Lionel, the Princes Steward was a strong and consistent performer and although new to the society looked very comfortable on the stage.

As her Stepmother and Cinderella's Stepsisters, Grace and Joy, were Constance Lawton, Rhianna Howard and Hatty Gribben respectively. I really liked all these performances – giving so much comedy and fun throughout the show. Rhianna and Hatty bounced off each other so well and their characters were spot on – I particularly liked their duet – the Stepsisters Lament.

Constance as the Stepmother really stood out with her magnificent stage presence. She commanded the stage and was a joy to watch.

Filling the magic shoes of the Fairy Godmother was Emma Loring. Emma really shone vocally in this part – she was sassy and funky and like a blonde bombshell, she really sparkled whilst on stage. This was a great opportunity to show off her vocal talents.

There was a lot to like about this show – the live scene changes, the amazing costumes, the way the cast were used by Director, Claire Carr and the lighting by Nigel Northfield.

My only slightly negative point was on occasions the diction wasn't quite clear enough and with a show which isn't so well known this is imperative but overall, this was a fresh and interesting production with a strong orchestra led by Thomas Duchan, so there was something for everyone.

Huge congratulations to the cast, production team and the crew on such an enjoyable production