

## BWT Review

The Producers  
Witham Amateur Operatic Society  
Witham public Hall  
October 26-31

### Gamble pays off with this fast-paced Mel Brooks classic

A play within a play has been a device much used more or less since people starting writing them.

Apart from any dramatic purpose, it often gives actors a chance to let themselves go and create characters well outside their normal range.

There is really no need in this Mel Brooks classic which includes a full panoply of eccentrics in its main cast even before they stage the guaranteed flop that doesn't flop; Springtime for Hitler.

David Slater's anguished Max Bialystock is balanced by Michael Watling's naive Leo Bloom, while Corrina Wilson poo-poo-pa-doo's in true Marilyn Monroe style (with a Swedish accent).

David Everest-Ring and Lewis Behan joyously try to out-camp each other and Stuart Scott Brown struts the stage magnificently in jackboots and swastika.

Add stooping 'old ladies' dancing with their walking frames, some catchy songs and snappy one-liners and it all adds up to an often hilarious experience.

The set is colourful, the dancing intricate, the humour frequently post-watershed and the whole production thoroughly slick and fast-paced.

It reflected a gamble taken by the society to leave the whole thing in the hands of the next generation. Director Amy Trigg, musical director Thomas Duchan and choreographer Louise Lachance are all in their early twenties.

There can be no doubt that they will be invited back again.

Ron Fosker