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SERVING AMATEUR THEATRE SINCE 1899

CHLETENHAM OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

'THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL' THE PLAYHOUSE FEB 08

Director: DAPHNE HERBERT

Musical Director: DAVE WHITTLE

Choreographer: CLAIRE YATES

There are times when you know you are going to have a really enjoyable evening's theatre before you even get there. That's how I felt on the way to this production, and I wasn't disappointed. Director, DAPHNE HERBERT, had an extremely enthusiastic and talented company to work with, and she brought out the best in them. She smoothly transposed the moment from powerful to sensitive as the story dictated, paid a lot of attention to detail, and created some lovely grouping. CLARE YATE'S choreography was imaginative and, at times, humorous. 'The Creation of Man' was one of the highlights of the evening. The 14 piece orchestra skilfully mastered the difficult score, and was expertly controlled by DAVID WHITTLE who ensured they did not drown the performers at all. They were a pleasure to listen to in their own right. The costumes, made and supplied by GILL JERDEN COSTUMES, CHURCHDOWN, were stunning. They were opulent, well fitted and correctly depicted the fashions of the time. The excellent lighting plot made MIKE BARWICK'S simple, effective set very atmospheric, completing an exceedingly slick production. BEN PERKINS (Sir Percy - The Scarlet Pimpernel) was exceptional. His comic timing and the way he worked his audience was only enhanced by the beautiful richness of his voice. He was perfectly complimented by KATE ASTON as Marguerite. The clarity of her singing and her gentle soft French accent was maintained throughout her strong performance. GREGORY ASTON (Chauvelin) scowled his way through a convincingly menacing characterisation, and CERI SMEE was lovely in the role of Marie. The whole cast were energetic and polished. I could have sat through this show again and again. Well done C.O.D.S.

*Congratulations on a superb show.
Many thanks,
Malcolm*

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Patron: The Lord Lloyd-Webber

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