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SERVING AMATEUR THEATRE SINCE 1899

Due to limits on the volume of words allowed, the abbreviated report below will go into the regional magazine.

Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society

'Thoroughly Modern Millie'

The Everyman Theatre, June 09

Director: Daphne Herbert

Musical Director: David Whittle

Choreographer: Claire Yeates

This version of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' sends up the 1967 film rather than reproducing it and Daphne Herbert's direction allowed her actors' own interpretations to emerge whilst guiding them through the story. Millie was played by Pippa Thomas, a confident young actress whose voice seems made for musical theatre. Pippa danced well and held her accent although just occasionally she threw away the odd line with casual delivery. Leo Roberts (Jimmy) was energetic and likeable and Vicki Riches (Dorothy) had lovely comic timing and a crystal voice. Charlie Corn (Trevor Graydon) was superb as the rakish, matinee-idol man-about-town. Dan Bacon (Bun Foo) and Jamie Dewick (Ching Ho) showed great teamwork and a special mention must go to the very talented Lynsey MacDonald (Miss Flannery). Claire Yeate's choreography was imaginatively constructed within the limited width of the theatre. The female chorus members were visibly more accomplished in their dancing than the males but the musical numbers were well executed. 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' and 'Forget About The Boy' were highlights. David Whittle's orchestra played well but was often too loud - unfortunately this meant that words in songs were missed and speaking lines were 'over' rather than 'under' played. 'Millie' is a very long show and is not helped by slow entrances and an inveterate lack of pace (mainly in chorus scenes - although those involving Mrs Mears were particularly laboured) and at times the silences this created were palpable. Costumes and sets had combined to create visually striking and colourful imagery throughout and overall this was a very pleasant if somewhat lengthy production.

Best Wishes

Craig Hewlett

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Patron: The Lord Lloyd-Webber

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