



Hats off to this theatre company

Those who attended Monmouth Music Society's recent production of *Me and My Girl* over the 18th to 21st April, were treated to a slick and professional piece of theatre.

Hosted by Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls, the theatre was packed for all four nights, with Saturday's performance filling every seat.

Audiences were moved to dancing in their seats and many joined in on the classic songs such as *The Lambeth Walk*, *Leaning on a Lamppost* and *The Sun Has Got His Hat On*. Notable voices came from Andrea Pole playing *Jacquie*, and Shay Morris who took the leading role.

Saving the play from a slow beginning, star in the making Shay Morris from Hereford gave an impressive performance throughout as *Bill Snibson*.

With comic lines such as "I live in a distant village called London", "O yes, which part?", "All of me" and a strong stage presence, Shay fitted his premier role with the society perfectly. As a welder by trade, Shay surprised all watching with a confident, charismatic performance which included an impressive ability to mold a Herefordian accent to a brassy cockney tone.

Standout performances were also provided by Kate Downes as *The Duchess* and Graham Bryant as *Sir John*. Kate's subtle skill enabled her to capture the Duchess' feminine power over the household and Graham Bryant related well to the audience, allowing them to join him in his constant struggle to appear as one half of the decision making process with the Duchess.

An impressive piece of acting was also shown by northern girl Louise Miller who played the role of *Lambeth lass Sally Smith*.

As the group's first dance show, a great job was done by all, with cast member and stage director Andrew Griffiths, and musical director Ian Russell, guiding the team to a string of confident and thoroughly enjoyable performances.

Well made staging and a skilful live orchestra put the finishing touches to a superb evening. At just £10, the Monmouth show stands up against its big-stage rivals, with all who attended leaving happy.

Keep an eye on the group at www.monmouthmt.co.uk for details on their next production, *Trial by Jury*.