

MONMOUTHSHIRE BEACON REVIEW OF "OLIVER!"

I arrived at the Haberdashers Monmouth School for girls on a sunny afternoon to be greeted by a friendly and organised reception. Tickets in hand I made my way into a packed auditorium. A prompt start and introduction followed and the performance began.

I was mesmerised by the talent of all the actors and actresses involved and the maturity of the young members. What is referred to as an amateur group really is much more than that.

I loved Reuben Jones' portrayal of Fagin, as a fan of Russell Brand I found him very alike.....as funny and captivating. Rachel Stevens's accent for Nancy was spot on and her voice amazing, and at times tears provoking in solo. Young Joshua Morgan's performance was magical and the bravery of someone so young to perform with the confidence he did was awe inspiring.....A great future ahead for Joshua I'm sure. There was also a little star in the chorus who caught my eye, and I later found out from the lovely people sat behind me, that he was also Oliver and that he and Joshua had shared the role. Another young man with a bright future ahead.

All in all everyone involved made the production the professional and fun performance it was. From the beautiful music played by the orchestra to each and every person on stage, this truly was a great experience. It was my first time watching a Monmouth Music theatre production and I can definitely say that I will be looking forward to the next production in the autumn.

For more information on Monmouth Music theatre group please visit the website www.monmouthmt.co.uk

NODA REVIEW OF "OLIVER!"

NODA WALES & IRELAND - DISTRICT 3 / MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE - OLIVER
REVIEWED BY DEE Mc ILROY
THE HABERDASHERS SCHOOL, MONMOUTH / 11 05 14
DIRECTOR ANDREW GRIFFITHS / MUSICAL DIRECTOR IAN RUSSELL

There is nothing to compare with the musical Oliver, the famous adaptation of Charles Dickens book. It offers the cast of any society a wealth of interesting characters, parts for youngsters which could give them inspiration to pursue this rewarding hobby or a stage career for life.

Monmouth brought a stunning production to the stage, the opening scene entry of the workhouse boys singing movingly quietly and then building to a final crescendo was inspirational from MD Ian Russell. Josh Morgan as Oliver gave a charismatic performance full of energy and emotion. Excellent direction by Andrew Griffiths made every character come alive without ever becoming a caricature.

Giving an outstanding performance of Mr Bumble, Andrew Griffiths lived the role and was in fine voice, a perfect pairing with Andrea Pole as Widow Corney. His Boy For Sale a powerful piece indeed! The Sowerberry's Tony Hardy and Liz Mundy an acting triumph with wonderful mannerisms.

The Fagin Factor has to be there to follow in the footsteps of the great Ron Moody of film fame and we all wait for him to appear. Well I can say that Reuben Jones was that man again, with his lightness of movement, humour, strong characterisation and great rapport.

A feisty Rachel Stephens singing beautifully as Nancy, bringing honest realism to the role with Nick Thompson giving nasty piece of work Bill Sykes his all, the cameo roles were well played and the precision ensemble created the Victorian ambience so perfectly on every appearance.