

Show People II



Well what another great success for KLMTC!

We had Superb Sound, Luscious Lighting, Classy Caterers, Whirling Waitresses, Fabulous Front of House, Courageous Crew, Phenomenal Performers and of course Dynamic 'Duo' Direction

To top it all, we made a profit of £1,370!

What more can we say...
the following pages containing our NODA review sums it up



'Together we bring live musical theatre to the heart of Kings Langley'





Show People II write up from:

Pam Armstrong
Regional Councillor
NODA London

General

Following on from the success of last year's Show People, I was delighted to be invited to attend Show People II. The auditorium was buzzing with pleasurable anticipation and the hall looked delightful with its stunning red and black theme.

Director

Having a success with the inaugural compilation show does not always guarantee subsequent successes; there were no worries with this event as the talented Annie Hertler-Smith staged a most entertaining evening which was clearly enjoyed by our enthusiastic audience.

Annie Hertler-Smith

Annie had devised an extremely well balanced compilation show, changing the pace from exciting to reflective, to inspirational to heart rending with comedy to make us chuckle. She was able to exploit the talents of the cast to the full to enable them to display their joyous singing, acting skills and the lovely comedic numbers. It takes skill to devise a show of this nature, so it flows in a cohesive manner and Annie achieved this - with what looked like ease, but in reality a great deal of hard work and planning.

Music Director

Although not mentioned in the Table Programme, I assumed that Janette, once again, was MD for this show. The company performed to backing tracks and this can present a considerable challenge, but they were well drilled and with only the very occasional 'wobble' it worked very well indeed.

Sound and Light

A compilation show relies heavily on lighting effects and also it is crucial to have good sound. Both were delivered with aplomb and really enhanced the overall effect of the show.

Performers

The production opened with an extract from *Curtains*. This opening number was nice and tight, with personalities shining through straight away all enhanced by good choreography. The whole show was interspersed with dialogue from Narrators informing us of the performers and songs; these words were nicely crafted and delivered and gently changed the mood, however, it would enhance delivery if the Narrators were able to make more eye contact with the audience as this engages us all more with the speaker.



NOVA

Cabaret was really summing up the evening we were there for and Denise delivered this song well. She has a lovely voice and she played around with the music very nicely indeed. The change of lighting effects from Red to Blue worked well and was noted.

Moving on to a comedic number **Death is just around the Corner** was performed by Liz with Beth, Claire and Sian. All had good stage presence and the black costumes were very effective. The whole number was delivered with aplomb together with the simple, but I must say, most effective choreography.

A total change of mood took us to **Steam Heat** from the Pajama Game. This was delivered in style by Cara, John, Kerri, Julie and Zoe. It was well opened and the black costumes, with red bow ties, good red gloves and bowler hats was visually excellent. Well done on a good number.

The tone was now changed to heart-moving as Beth and Ruth sang **I know him so Well** from Chess. This was an excellent number, emotionally delivered by two very good singers - their voices blended so well together. And of course, the costumes enhanced the number.

Continuing with the theme, the next number was **I don't know how to love Him** from Jesus Christ Superstar. This was sung by Cara, Marie, Natalie and Sue and with their lovely voices, this song was intriguingly spread between the 4 of them. It worked so well and this quartet really put over the question in the song. I liked the black dresses with the black shawls - visually moving.

Now was the time for a bit of comedy and Mark with a chorus of men, sang **Standing on the Corner** from The most happy fella. Mark had a lovely deep voice and he delivered this number with humour which was a lot of fun.

Claire and Sian took to the stage next with their delivery of **Sisters** from White Christmas. Once again a lovely comedy number. They had good, sexy costumes and the red and black feather fans worked extremely well and were used to good effect. They were very convincing as 'sisters', with good stage presence and interpretation of the song. Well done on an excellent number.

As if we never said Goodbye from Sunset Boulevard pulled at the heartstrings. This was sung by Debbie; she brought her very strong voice to this number exploiting the emotion of the song to the full. I really liked the way in which we had two men silently performing - this was most effective. A really lovely number.

NOVA - For every stage



Back to comedy with **But I am a good girl now** from Burlesque sung by Beth with Cara, Julie, Kerri and Sian. What a lovely, cheeky number this was and so well delivered together with good, sexy choreography. The red and black costumes were most effective and I liked the boots with the red laces. I have a note about the scarves (which I can't read !) but clearly they made an impact on me. Well done all of you.

Tell me it's not True from Blood Brothers was a company number lead by Debbie. Strong, powerful voices were in evidence to deliver this emotional number. I particularly liked the way in which the company entered through the auditorium - it was nicely done, together with good positioning on stage. Lovely number.

Ringing the changes, we moved on to **Diamonds are a girls' best friend** from Gentlemen prefer Blonds performed by Liz with Brian and John. This was nicely delivered by Liz who conveyed the message of the song with a sultry voice and worked well with her 'men in black'. Good costumes, I liked the shoes and I noted the black glasses !

Kevin, Neil and Nigel, were next to portray **Empty Chairs and Empty Tables** from Les Miserable. This was a very good number and exploited to the full the strong voices of this trio. It was delivered with the emotion it required - a lovely number and well done all.

The Finale for Act 1 was **Any Dream will Do** from Joseph and the amazing technicolour Dreamcoat. A really lovely company number well delivered by all participants to draw the first half to a rousing conclusion.

Act 2 opened in robust fashion with **Put on your Sunday clothes** from Hello Dolly performed by Kevin with the Company. This was a lovely song, delivered well by Kevin with his strong voice and good stage presence. The ensemble entered through the auditorium and the whole number was enhanced by simple and most effective choreography. There was good interaction between performers - a lovely number.

Brian and Pat joined together to sing **I remember it well** from Gigi. They presented a convincing couple and delivered this song with fun and humour. Pat was quite playful in her 'correction' of Brian and it was a charming rendition by both of them.

Two numbers from Chicago followed next - the first was **Nowadays** by Claire, Julie, Liz, Sian and Zoe. This was beautifully delivered and I noted the all black costumes, with red toppers and red bow ties. Well done everyone.

The second number from Chicago was **Hot honey Rag** This rang the changes completely in that it was a dance number only - it was a lovely interlude. A most lively tap number was delivered with great skill by Cara and Kerri - it was very well done and much enjoyed.

Impossible Dream from Man of La Mancha was performed by the company who gradually came onto the performing area building the song - this worked well and was most effective. I particularly noted the good body positions on stage. Well done on a lovely number.



NOVA

From ensemble to solo, Zoe sang **Nothing** from Chorus Line. This was an excellent performance and Zoe really lived the part in this song - congratulations on a most enjoyable performance.

Money makes the world go around from Cabaret - this lovely comedic number was well delivered by both John and Julie. The song was so well suited for their voices, and comedy through choreography was well exploited. Well done.

Chicago featured again with **When you're good to Mama**. Debbie was excellent in this number with her powerful voice. She delivered the song well and lived the part. Supported by Claire, Cara, Kerri, Liz, Sian and Zoe, all were suitably sexy and the number was enhanced by simple yet effective choreography nicely tailored to everyone.

I dreamed a Dream from Les Miserable was sung by Helen who delivered this haunting song well with her wistful voice.

Bring on the Men from Jekyll & Hyde was a fabulous number. Claire, Liz, Sian and Zoe, oozed appeal in the delivery of this great song with their strong voices. The costumes were excellent and I noted the bows on the trousers - a nice touch.

Stars from Les Miserable was an excellent contrast to the previous number. Kevin entered through the auditorium - dressed in a suitable coat. He commanded the stage with his presence and powerful and emotional delivery of this haunting number. Excellent.

What a lot of fun **Macavity** from Cats was. Dressed in black with one white and one black glove and sparkly bow ties, there was excellent dancing from the ensemble. The singing from the side of the stage was nicely done and overall it was a good portrayal by Claire, Cara, Helen, Julie, Kerri, Liz, Marie, Mark, Natalie, Ruth, Sian and Sue

The grand finale was **The best of Times** from La Cage Aux Folles and it was a strong finish for an excellent evening's entertainment. I wished more had been made of the bows so the enthusiastic audience could have shown their appreciation even more than they did !

Many congratulations to you all at KLMTC for another most successful cabaret evening. Well done to Annie for her vision in crafting such a good programme to celebrate Theatre and to all the performers who put their hearts and souls into delivering such an enjoyable evening to your appreciative audience.

I hope this will now be an annual feature in your calendar and I look forward to joining you again.

NOVA - For every stage

NOVA

We have a new 'STAR(s)'

Kevin Straughan

How did Kevin enjoy his first show with KLMTC?
Let's ask him...!



2021 was the last time I trod the boards and although I did miss it, being so so busy, as most people are, meant squeezing in rehearsals was a thing of the past. That was until I asked Liz to help me with a 90th birthday celebration (not mine) in April along with hubby Steve.

They were both brilliant and unbeknownst to me Liz had spoken to my wife, Marie, and she gave her blessing to me finding the time!

Show people II was up and coming and I really liked the concept. I attended the AGM and saw faces old and new. Everyone had a smile and the atmosphere was relaxed yet committed to the show. I could tell I was going to like this group, I just hoped they would like me???

The whole experience of rehearsing to performances was a very pleasant experience. There was laughter and, fun but a collective goal of achieving Annie and Janette's vision. Of course I forgot some lines and dance moves but I think I got away with it!

The smiles on people's faces after the show said it all. That's why we do it. A great achievement but don't listen to me - there's the applause and NODA write up.

Well done everyone. A closer knit and warmer group of people you couldn't wish to meet. Thank you everyone for being so welcoming.

I look forward to being part of the group for a while yet, if that's okay?

And the survey said...
YES Kevin, you can stay!

