



Society : The Pump House Children & Youth Theatre
 Production : SEUSSICAL
 Date :
 Venue : The Pump House Theatre
 Report by : July 2008

Report

Josie Shingles, NODA London District area 10

This was a purely magical mystery tour of sumptuousness, surprise and wonderment from start to finish. My congratulations to all of you, actors, production team and directors. It was really fantastic and took my breath away or blew me away as they say! This show was new to me so my biggest problem was not having enough eyes in my head. With so much going on, so many characters plus the screen, where to look, who to look at and take it all in was quite beyond me at times. I needed 4 pairs of eyes at least! . As I told your director Moya when leaving it would have been great to have come a second time, see the other cast, and given myself another treat but unfortunately not possible. So all I can say is VERY WELL DONE AND YOU WERE ALL MARVELLOUS.

Directors Moya Brewer, Lee Farman, Robin Scarborough & Karen Rhodes did a magnificent job with this massive show and I am sure that, although I know a lot of hard work went into rehearsals, certain you all had a lot of fun at the same time. With far too many characters it is difficult to mention everyone, so forgive me if I just pick out the ones who really made the biggest impression. Really though the entire cast were stars, talented young people who I take my hat off to and thanks for such amazing entertainment.

Let's start with first impressions - the Set/Scenery was fantastic. Beautifully designed, painted, colourful and practical. The levels worked very well plus excellent Props also enhanced the whole show. What marvellous imagination your people have to have thought up such brilliant ideas, plus the costumes of course which were out of this world, an explosion of marvellous colours and designs. Pure genius designs I would say and all worn with such panache by the young cast who carried their performances off brilliantly. I loved the various characters, animations and extraordinary personalities all brought to life from the magical writings of Dr Seuss.

Musically too it was a dream so congrats to M.D. Sue McCall, with each number sung comically or even romantically at times in a perfectly innocent manner. The orchestra, under the confident baton of Lee Farman, played the music brilliantly, if a bit too loud at times. My ears hurt when I left! Yes I know its rock but they did not need to drown the singers. Bands always do this everywhere I go, its like they are competing who can play loudest, but in such a small venue it could have been toned down a bit maybe? Perhaps something to think of next time doing a musical show. Choreography by Julie Paloma too was magical, inventive and amusing plus stylised ingeniously to each number. The dancers were confident and looked marvellous too.

Continued/...

HOLLIE SULIVAN, as The Cat, flabbergasted me with her energy, vivacity and talent. She truly was this magnificent cat person who transformed herself before our very eyes. I loved her entire performance plus when she took over the role of M.D. up and down the stairs, or swinging on rope, each time I just wanted to stand up and cheer. Fantastic is all I can say, what a star..

KIRSTY HENLEY-WASHFORD was very confident as the sweet Jojo who really believed in all the magical things she was conjuring up plus weird and wonderful characters she met on her journey. She was brave, natural and tireless in her search for the truth and I loved her performance.

Horton the Elephant was courageously and sweetly played by TOM SCARBOROUGH. I just wanted to hug him constantly, give him a big cuddle and say " don't worry, everything will turn out ok in the end". He was gorgeous in his humility and I cried when he and Jojo sang Alone in the Universe. I just adored his entire performance and loved him to bits..

I also loved SARAH PICKEN as the sexy Mayzie and HAZEL FARMAN as the poignant love struck Gertrude. These two wonderfully mythical birds had so much panache that they made me hoot with laughter or shake my head at their cheekiness. A pair of game birds indeed.

ALEXANDRA ROBINSON & MILES PALOMA were great as Sour Kangaroo & Young Kangaroo plus very impressed with BEN HENLEY-WASHFORD & SAM HICKEY playing the very proper Mr & Mrs Mayor who looked grand in their costumes too. .

The Bird Girls were gorgeous, brilliantly dressed, brilliantly danced plus very stylish and audaciously sexy too. While the Wickersham Brothers were in turn either evil or cheeky, like bad boys being naughty. The Who Cadets looked so smart and very confident in their precise marching under the commanding instruction of LAURENCE BISDEE as The General . He certainly licked them into shape and they were all great. All the rest of the cast, Citizens of Who and Citizens of Nool, made up this magical extravaganza by beautifully supporting each scene in their own individual way, always in character and on the ball. .

So another successful show for your talented company. It made we want to be young again and up there with them in that marvellous magical wonderland of make believe. So many thanks for letting me review it. Also my thanks to Chairman Elizabeth, Pat & Moya for their warm welcome and hospitality.

Lastly please try to save 4 posters and 4 programmes so you can send these off next year to Jacquie Stedman be submitted for the 2008/2009 awards. Plus I would like 4 Photos of set please. Jacquie will send out details to you next Spring in readiness for the Awards at AGM in June 2009. If you have any queries her telephone number is in the NODA directory, or call me. .

With very best wishes and thanks for a such a beautiful show. Josie

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josie Shingles". Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.