

Singing the Praises of 'SisterAct'

Memo to:- Exeter Musical Society 25.04.15

I just felt I had to write something to express how much we enjoyed the Friday matinee performance of *Sister Act* that was staged at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter on April 3rd 2015.

My daughter happened to mention to me that she had a friend appearing in this show and, as it was to be performed around the time of her birthday, I suggested we all go to see this production as a birthday combined Easter treat.

I had only ever seen the film before which I thought was ok, but nothing special. My Father had seen the professional stage show and recommended it highly. I went along not quite knowing what to expect. Maybe it would be quite good, but - as an amateur production - perhaps it would lack a little quality and polish.

'Nun' of it! - This show hit you in the face from word go with an energy and sparkle that I have rarely - if ever seen on a stage in Exeter. Every member of the cast gave their all and the performances combined with the musical talent on stage and from the band for an extremely enjoyable afternoon at the theatre. The sets were great and the costumes fantastic!

The story line which combines action with comedy and a buzzing musical score was brought to life on stage in a way that couldn't have been bettered by a professional west end company!

A special mention must go to Kat Brooks as Deloris van Cartier / Sister Mary Clarence. Simply 'Amazing'. She held the show together with a powerfully driven and gutsy performance that was unbelievably believable. She managed to convey the complexity of this character extremely well from the cool ambitious brashness in the earlier scenes to the converted, converted, songstress with heart and soul towards the end. Her comedy timing was terrific and her voice strong and vibrant. 'Fabulous baby!'

Other mentions go to Penny Daw as Mother Superior. Beautiful voice and a wonderfully exasperated performance. Also James Billington as Sweaty Eddie - a warm rich voice which was highlighted in the number 'I could be that guy'.

There were no duff performances and all of the rest of the cast and ensemble were top notch including Pip Hill as the cranky Sister May Lazarus who breaks out into a tremendously funny rap during one of the numbers and Adrian Fox as Monsignor O'Hara.

Credits to the Director, Musical Director and Choreographer for putting together a show that sparkled and rocked with star performances with a terrific supporting ensemble. It really was an afternoon that took us all to heaven and the well deserved standing ovation had us all signing and clapping in the aisles! We didn't want it to end.

Amen! And Hallelujah!

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