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EASTBOURNE OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY - RENT

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2009

I honestly wasn't quite sure what to expect from Rent as I hadn't seen the show before, but wow! was I glad not to have missed this production. This was powerful stuff with amazing performances from the whole cast.

The storyline is tragic in many ways, as was of course La Boheme, but there are some lighter moments and every opportunity was taken to draw the audience into the action throughout.

The casting was superb with all the main characters in good voice, even at the end of the run and it was pleasing to note that the words of the songs came over so well – an excellent sound system for this type of musical.

Damon Willer as Mark and Ashley Wright as Roger played their parts to perfection and Rebecca Fillery as Mimi was amazing, singing and acting this part in a very moving way.

Great acting from both Gareth Brighton as Tom and Danny Pearce as Angel (how did Danny manage to dance in those high heels – quite remarkable!). Helen Ward-Jackson is another great actor and gave the part of Maureen everything she had and Tiffany Da-Silva as her partner, Joanne, was an exceedingly good foil. Nathan Morris as Benny gave depth to the part of Mark and Roger's Landlord.

The rest of the cast added power to the production as did Daniel Goodger's band who played magnificently.

I spoke to quite a few older people (of which I am definitely one!) who had been along to a performance and although this sort of show may not have been their "thing," they all spoke highly of what they had seen.

Everyone involved in this production deserves many congratulations for bringing this controversial show to Eastbourne, especially Director Tom Robinson, MD Daniel Goodger and Choreographers Tracy Watton and Val Quanstrom, and although your audiences may not have been too large during the week, I'm sure all those young, enthusiastic folk who were there on the last night must have made up for possibly quieter audiences earlier.