

noda

SERVING AMATEUR THEATRE SINCE 1899
EASTBOURNE OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

CAROUSEL

FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2009

Well, where do I start? This was an excellent show in every way, full of drama and plenty of pathos. I came to see the show twice and managed to go away with tears in my eyes both times!

The opening scene in the amusement park, complete with carousel, was spectacular and certainly deserved a round of applause. Couple this, together with the scenery throughout, with a strong cast and well rehearsed chorus and you definitely have a recipe for success.

Florence Chisholm as Julie Jordan was everything that one could ask for in this character, using her abilities in acting and singing to great effect. Billy Bigelow, that very angry young man was played superbly by Lee Reynolds. His voice, particularly in the dramatic soliloquy, sent shivers down my spine – he has an amazing vocal ability.

Julie's friend, Carrie, is a lovely part and Susie Blundell played it with great verve and brought some fun to the piece. Claire Robinson as Mrs Mullin looked and acted in every way the jealous woman who desperately wanted her barker back and not just to run the carousel!

Sarah Hall was the kindly Nettie Fowler who also stood no nonsense and played the part extremely well. Mark Stevens gave a great characterisation of the rather prim and proper fisherman, Enoch Snow and interacted very well with Carrie. Keith Smith as Jigger Craigin used his expertise to show us that he really was the bad guy and gave a great performance.

The ladies dancing chorus was excellent and so were all the children. The Snow children looked just as they should and the ballet scene, albeit somewhat long as it always is, was very well choreographed.

A very well laid out programme and the article on carousels was very interesting – I rode a galloper on an old carousel a few years ago and it was a great experience!

Congratulations to Director Nick Reynolds, Choreographer Teresa Smith, Musical Director Daniel Goodger and the whole team for putting on such an excellent show – my only question is – where were the audience? Those who were not there didn't know what they were missing!

Brenda Gower Regional NODA Representative

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Patron: The Lord Lloyd-Webber

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