

# The Review: Fanfare by EODS

By [Laura Sonier](#)

## The Review of Fanfare by EODS at the Devonshire Park Theatre.

There are plenty of centenarians in Eastbourne, but few can boast to have entertained thousands of people over the years with song, dance and drama.

Eastbourne Operatic and Dramatic Society is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2007 with a handful of performances, climaxing with Fanfare for EODS this week.

The Devonshire Park Theatre show – penned by Georgina Daly and co-directed by Georgina and Pamela Kuhn (pictured left) – takes a fond, funny look at the highlights from 100 years of treading the boards, from Maritana to Me and My Girl, from Showboat to Scrooge the Musical and from Annie to Annie Get Your Gun.

The musical numbers – plus an excerpt from The Importance of Being Earnest – were linked with recorded reminiscences from members of EODS, a history of the group and background to the musicals.

The show leapt about geographically and musically, from cowboys in Kansas to orphans in the East End and a Queen in Thailand, boasting some of the most popular tunes in musical theatre – including Sound of Music's My Favourite Things, Me and My Girl's Lambeth Walk, Gypsy's Everything's Coming Up Roses and Annie's A Hard Knock Life.

With choreography by Jade Powers and Val Quanstrom and musical direction by Roger Malley and Mark Smith and some of the best-known names from EODS – including Jane Brittain-James, Nick Reynolds, Stella Blond, James Bell, Louise King, Clem Jackson, Elaine Montgomerie, Samantha Summerbell, Nikki Leach, Ian Tingley, Bob Lester and Tiffany Da Silva and a cracking cast of youngsters who did double duty as orphans in Oliver! and Annie – there is plenty to enjoy.

There was a slight glitch when the wrong song was introduced, but it was handled with enough charm to have the audience chuckling and clapping within seconds.