

**EASTBOURNE OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

**LA CAGE AUX FOLLES - FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2011**

EODS made a very good choice of show here, as judging by the house on the Friday night, this was the one that everyone wanted to see and they would certainly not have been disappointed. Director Stuart Simons and cast are to be congratulated on putting this glitzy show-biz razzle-dazzle of a production into the annals of what EODS can do.

The amazing opening of the show in the St Tropez Nightclub with a superb performance from Les Cagelles ("We are What we Are") set the scene impeccably for what was to come as the story of the strangely dysfunctional family of Albin, Georges and Jean Michel unfolded.

There were so many good performances from this talented cast that I can only pick out a few:

Steven Stapley played the challenging role of Albin in excellent fashion as did Neil Sellman as Georges, together with their son Jean Michel, played by Tom Robinson. Dave Nicholles gave a wonderfully "over-the-top performance as Jacob and every member of the cast added their skills to this amazing production.

There is some lovely music in this show and the band, under the direction of MD Andy Gill, made a great sound and supported the cast so well. The choreography is obviously a key part of this production and Stuart, with the assistance of Nikki Leach made sure that this was spot on.

Another key part must be the makeup, wigs and costume, all professionally dealt with by the backstage team without whom such a production could not be contemplated. All those working backstage, in whatever capacity, are to be congratulated for all the hard work undertaken.

The simple set, designed by Richard Langley, was absolutely ideal and gave room for all the action that took place.

As always, a very well designed programme which made interesting reading and all in all, La Cage made an excellent evening's entertainment. Well done EODS!

Brenda Gower Regional NODA Representative