

## Performing a truly polished Peter Pan

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THEY'VE done it once again. The members of Young EODS have pulled off yet another professional and polished show with Peter Pan, currently at the Devonshire Park.

There's singing and dancing, plenty of colour and just what you need to brighten up half term.

Last year's offering by Young EODS of Buggy Malone was always going to be a hard act to follow but the youngsters have once again shown there is so much young talent in the town and they can take up any challenge.

It is a privilege to see how so many of those young actors who live and breathe the theatre have improved each year especially 16-year-old Ollie Taplin, who plays Hook and can do no wrong in my eyes, and Jack Watts who takes on the role of Hook's stupid sidekick, Smee.

The Devonshire Park is just the perfect setting for the story of the mischievous boy (in this case, played by Bethany-Terri Baulcombe) who can fly (and does – above the stage), refuses to grow up and spends his never ending childhood adventuring on the small island of Neverland with the Lost Boys, the Indians and Captain Hook.

Bethany's Peter is superb and she has such a powerful singing voice, you could be forgiven for thinking you were at a West End musical.

Ollie's portrayal of Hook is hilarious and the 40 plus strong cast give it their all during the two hour show with live music from an orchestra (none of that recorded rubbish!).

It would be lovely to give all the pirates, lost boys, mermaids and Indians a mention by name but space permits and special mention has to be saved for Josh King who not only plays Wendy, Michael and John's father, Mr Darling but also an Indian chief and a crocodile.

Special mention must go too to the parents who work behind the scenes as stage crew shifting the impressive scenery, production assistants and in wardrobe. They should all be proud as punch.

As always, don't take my word for it (but if it keeps my six-year-old happy and quiet for two hours, then it's money well spent!), get yourself and the family along to the Devonshire Park Theatre.

The show runs until tomorrow (Saturday) and tickets can be booked at the theatre box office.