

## **THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE**

**Review by Ron Fosker, Braintree and Witham Times**

**Thoroughly Modern Millie**

**WOW**

**Witham Public Hall**

**February 18-23**

No fewer than 145 costumes – and almost as many wigs – had to be hired to put on Thoroughly Modern Millie, the latest production from the Witham teenage group WOW.

The 30-strong ensemble made full use of them in a vibrant and colourful performance.

In their flapper dresses and sharp suits, the cast evoked the 1920s, both stylish and stylised, with Flapper dresses and the Charleston to the fore.

Particularly effective was the typing-tapping routine where the typewriters' clatter was mimicked by the dancers' feet.

There are some deliberately over-the-top performances, notably from Lily Downes as the frighteningly forceful Mrs Meers and Tom Nicoll as the fast-talking boss with the rich baritone voice.

Poppy Fisher shimmered nicely as Miss Dorothy while Ben Collins channelled his inner Sinatra as the Pal Joey-like Jimmy Smith.

The show was almost stolen by Ryan Wuyts and William Hackett, who both learned Mandarin Chinese to play Ching Ho and Bun Foo – and they were not negligible roles either.

But towering above it all was the outstanding Yasmin Sharp in the ultra demanding title role. She offered some welcome light and shade amid the occasional freneticism and carried off the role with aplomb: a controlled singing voice, sharp wit and nailed-on delivery.