

OUR HOUSE

Braintree & Witham Times Review by Ron Fosker

Rarely can WOW have expended so much energy in an evening.

And seldom can a title have been so apposite as House of Fun, Madness's only No.1 and the song that led to final frantic scenes as the entire cast threw themselves around the stage in ever more frenetic dance routines.

This house was having great fun, and its infectiousness carried over to the audience, few of whom can have left without at least a vestige of a smile on their face and a spring in their step.

The maelstrom of movement was the climax of an evening devoted to Madness songs, worked into a storyline that used the Sliding Doors concept of parallel lives of good and bad, black and white, happy and sad.

It was carried along by some excellent performances, as one has come to expect from this group, led by Ben Huish, as the central character Joe.

His strong singing was matched by Mark Ellis and Ed Tunningley while Rosie Goddard, as Joe's girlfriend, brought in the tender touches, with an especially poignant and reserved version of NW5, one of the group's more recent and lesser known hits.

Amy Seymour was a strong presence as Joe's mother while Ashton Reed and Alice Tunningley did the cheeky stuff opposite Max Lenoir and Jack Martyn.

The show was a first in the director's role for Amy Trigg. A WOW regular herself not too long ago, she will have been only too well aware of the standard her predecessors had set.

She can be satisfied that she more than matched them with this vibrant production.