

OVATION RADIO REVIEW

A LITTLE BIT OF DISNEY MAGIC HAS COME TO WITHAM!

Last night we were kindly invited along to see Witham Operatic Youth's annual production, Disney's Broadway musical Beauty & The Beast at Witham Public Hall. And, it is certainly filled to the brim with Disney Magic.

The use of a static set made it so much easier with the ever changing scenes, with the incorporation of storybook projection adding a sense of scope and setting for the audience was well used. The costume design was great, with a wonderful nod to the original motion picture animation and stage production, but with its own spin as well.

But with all the technical aspects bringing the production to life, you can not help but be blown away with the talent, dedication and portrayals of some of the most timeless characters to be brought to the stage.

This production allowed an opportunity to showcase the talent of the next generation & there is a lot of talent in this company. With the youngest company member of 11, you couldn't tell, with an even playing field of brilliant performers.

Georgina Warren was a beautifully poised & graceful Belle, with an angelic strength which we loved. Frank Thornton was a wonderful beast, with a strength to his vocal range you don't normally hear often. Sam Howard embodied Gaston, with a great sarcastic & underplayed charm. Max Midgely was superb as Lefou, and is definitely one to watch for the future.

Madison O'Grady as Mrs Potts, brought the warmth & maternal charm you need & with a powerhouse performance. Luc Roberts & Harry Courtney as Lumiere & Cogsworth were a brilliant double act, who could hold the stage themselves but work brilliantly as a duo. Amelia Bennett as Babette, played it perfectly, with charm & cheekiness.

We wish we had the word count to do justice to every member of the company who you could see have poured their heart & soul into this production. It's playing at Witham Public Hall until the 21st February & is definitely worth a watch. With a special mention to the Silly Girls, their scene with Gaston had us in fits of laughter.

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