

OUR HOUSE

NODA Review

WITHAM OPERATIC WORKSHOP (WOW)

OUR HOUSE

Director Amy Trigg

Musical Director Emma Firth

Choreographer Louise Lachance

Performed at Witham Public Hall 21st February 2015

This was one of the best shows I have seen WOW perform.

Packed with drive and energy from start to finish the pace was amazing with 100% commitment from a very talented cast.

The songs, which are so well known, were strong on balance, and the choreography left us amazed at the exacting timing in the feats performed by this young cast, giving the audience such a variety of dance.

Louise Lachance as Choreographer really put her stamp on this show and gave us some first class choreography, and I am sure the cast was up for the challenge of the very daring dance routines.

The set was uncomplicated but very suitable for the show with very few props to distract from a bittersweet story of right versus wrong.

All the main characters led the cast through this action-packed production.

Joe, played so well by Ben Huish, was excellent both in acting skills, dance and a good strong singing voice. His character grew into good/bad and was well timed.

His brothers Emmo and Lewis, played by Jack Martyn and Max Lenoir, gave us two contrasting styles and were great together with Joe in some family tongue-in-cheek asides.

Joe (Senior) played by Mark Ellis was Joe Jnr's dead father trying to save the younger from falling into the bad ways he had got into. Mark gave a strong emotional feel to his character, which was a hard one to play. Mark had a terrific singing voice for a 17 year old and his interpretation of Joe felt sincere and real.

The "baddie" in the pack was Reecey, played by Ed Tunningley, a strong character here who led Joe into his undoing in very subtle ways. A terrific dancer as well, Ed fully did justice to this character.

The part of Sarah played by Rosie Goddard was played as a caring girlfriend and her song "It Must be Love" was poignant and beautifully sung, and she was again the forgiving girlfriend to Joe through thick and thin.

All the supporting cast, with many changing characters, added so much to this production and the whole show was a solid unit of stagecraft from every member on stage.

The eight-piece orchestra, led by Musical Director Emma Firth, just excelled in tempi and the sound and mix of instruments added so much to the backing of the show.

Well done to a very imaginative production team for "Our House" and to the energetic cast who, after a week's run, must be exhausted.

The screen giving a preview of “The Addams Family” the society’s next show, was a very good idea and with the forthcoming shows also a taster for the audience to look forward to.

We were thoroughly entertained with “Our House” and the talent in WOW is just getting better and better.

Many congratulations to everyone - cast, crew backstage and all the many unsung people, who help in many guises. Thank you also for your warm welcome and hospitality.

**Reviewer Ann Platten
Regional representative District 11,
NODA East**