

HALF A SIXPENCE

Braintree & Witham Times Review by Ron Fosker

Half a Sixpence was an intriguing choice for this teenage ensemble.

Not only would they have to ask their grandparents what a sixpence was, the show itself, primarily a vehicle for the then heartthrob Tommy Steele, has hardly stood the test of time.

But that did not matter. The cast under the able direction of recent WOW! member Faith Rogers, grabbed hold of it and turn it into a slick evening's entertainment.

Jake Collis and Charlotte Tofts were a winning combination in the central roles of Kipps and Ann, full of charm and wit and with a strong stage presence.

Dexter Montgomery camped it up as the playwright Chitterlow, while Amy Seymour was commandingly haughty as Mrs Walsingham and Tasha Gooderham was quietly effective as the demure but complex Helen.

But it was the ensemble pieces that stood out, a riot of colour and energy.

Max Lenoir, Charlie Smith and Harry Tunningley were full of life as Kipp's mates while the girl group of Alice Rydzik, Bella Tull, Alice Tunningley and Katie Galley were the glue that held the whole thing together.

Everything seemed to go up a notch when they were strutting their stuff.

The show, partly rewritten since its first appearance, was one that gave most of its performers a turn in the spotlight. Even though only the title song and Flash Bang Wallop were likely to be in any way familiar to the audience, there were plenty of other musical delights to keep everyone happy.