

Actors gave everything to rendition of popular show

GUYS AND DOLLS,
CAODS, 2006
Civic Theatre.

WHY travel to the Piccadilly when you can see Guys and Dolls on your doorstep, in a lively, colourful production by Jeremy Tustin for CAODS.

Frank Loesser's fable of Broadway is pretty much foolproof as a show, but the CAODS team gave it everything they'd got, and the effect was magical from overture to walk-down.

There were some very experienced players up there, together with a few new signings, and of course some youngsters from the Youth Team.

The male chorus, in particular, were impressively athletic in all their routines. Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat was the best of the full chorus numbers, full of incident and interesting choreography, and beautifully lit. The Hot Box girls – vaudeville at its glorious worst – were very watchable, and the Hoods, all hats and two-tone shoes, were full of character.

Only room for a few name-checks. Patrick Tucker was a laid-back Nicely Nicely, Jonathan Davies a sympathetic Detroit. Graham Borthwick-Jones had a great

character number as Grandfather to Alison Hartley's sweetly sung Sarah – her solo was a gem. I liked David Pridige's Sky Masterson, a natural performance as the smooth-talking gambling man, with none of the knowingness that can taint this character. And Karen Kelleher's Adelaide made the most of her comic opportunities in a performance to treasure.

Great band – MD Andrew Denyer – and ingenious sliding sets festooned with the brash advertising of post-war America.

MICHAEL GRAY