A mighty fine performance Reader Review SEPT 2001.

OKLAHOMA

Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, Civic Theatre

OKLAHOMA! Rodgers and Hammerstein's first collaboration (a romantic story of farmers and cowboys living, loving and quarrelling in the Wild West) broke musical theatre conventions at its 1943 opening. Innovative ballet/dance-dramas, as integral as the dialogue or songs like Surrey With The Fringe On Top developed the characters and plot.

Almost 60 years on, Ray Jeffrey's CAODS gave "a mighty fine" performance of what's become a theatre favourite.

Looking and sounding great with the orchestra, this spirited ensemble was well rehearsed, brilliantly set, staged, and choreographed. Their

camaraderie and fun made me wish I'd joined them!

David Pridige is a superb actor with a strong voice. His rough, no-frills Curly complemented an immaculate, Laurey exquisitely sung, danced and acted by the lovely Christie Booth.

Menacing Karl Wilson (Jud Fry) scared the wits *out of me - an imposing stage presence with vintage vocals!

The multi-talented supporting cast members were perfectly chosen for their roles too.

Don't miss One Singular Sensation, November 11.

Dee Mardi