

Magical Camelot

Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, Camelot, Civic Theatre

CAODS' production of the Lerner and Loewe Arthurian musical Camelot was spectacular.

The basic castle background was painted with light in a fairytale way by Robert Warner. Aided by Melanie Gulliver and Clare Hester, director Ray Jeffery used this to set off the dramatic scenes and magnificent costumes.

In the pit Bryan Cass had assembled a superb group of musicians. The ensemble singing was very good, particularly the men's chorus.

There was some strong casting with Patrick Tucker as a very human Arthur, desperate to find a role in life and forced to watch his wife and his trusted ally falling in love. As Guenevere, Rachel Sherlock reached a new peak with her portrayal of torn loyalties. Peter Sherlock as Lancelot was a romantic, heroic knight, although the image suffered from the clanking of his armour. Good support came from Leo McGiff as Merlin, complete with panto pyrotechnics, Peter Smith's funny King Pellinore, Margaret Burgess' Morgan le Fey and Barry Hester's Mordred buzzing around like a poisonous insect.

Mary Redman