

★ ★ ★ ★ KISS ME KATE WAS AN EVENING OF PURE DELIGHT!!!

Review from Ovation

Last night, CAODS had 'another opening of another show' with the Cole Porter classic musical Kiss Me Kate at The Chelmsford Theatre, Essex, and boy they didn't disappoint. The classics have a habit of being on the long side, but the company's energy and skill it was no time at all before the curtain came down on the first half.

The production is a well recognised show within a show with non-stop dance numbers, tricky dialogue, and song after song from start to end. It could easily fall flat with a lack of pace and scene changes, where the show can falter and fall. The company accomplished each of these with skill, which could be seen as easy.

Nicola Harrington-Smith was a tour de force as Lilli Vanessi with an incredible portrayal and a stunning voice. Gareth Barton (Fred Graham) took the show by the horns and kept the narrative moving with the confidence and charisma needed in a leading man, creating a chemistry with the audience and a perfect partner to Nicola's leading lady.

Kieran Bacon (Bill Calhoun) & Katie Doran (Lois Lane) were a partnership of beauty, wit, and talent. Each on their own commanded the stage, but together, they were brilliant to watch.

A special mention has to go out to Michael Bardo & Dave Everest-Ring as Man 1/Man 2, the comedy gangsters. Their well drilled, expertly executed interjections of dialogue and physical presence always left us wanting more, even with 2 encores of 'Brush Up Your Shakespeare'.

If we had the time, we would mention every member of this company. They never stopped and filled the stage with an energy and polish that can only climb new heights as the run continues. Claire Carr (director/choreographer) & Clare Penfold (musical director) have an absolute smash-hit on their hands and have brought a classic new life to be enjoyed by all audiences.

The production of Kiss Me Kate is on all this week at The Chelmsford Theatre, Essex until Saturday 2nd March. Follow the links for full information.

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