

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Patron: The Lord Lloyd-Webber

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HERSTMONCEUX AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY HELLO DOLLY SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2007

What an excellent production! I'm still savouring it as one of the best shows I've seen this year. I take my hat off (probably the one with ribbons down my back!) to Chris and Linda Thompson (Directors), Sue Burton (Musical Director), Becki and Samantha Fillery for choreography, together with Linda, Martyn Underhill (Producer) and all those involved in any way who were able to give your audiences such a wonderful evening.

Every use was made of the hall with exits and entrances all over the place and the walkway in front of the orchestra. We really were out there watching the 14th Street Parade in New York City.

All the characters were played just as they should be with Linda Thompson giving us a Dolly Levi with a big heart and an eye for business (especially matchmaking) and looking and sounding wonderful. She got her man in the end and Cliff Bendall as Horace Vandergelder eventually succumbed and gave excellent value to the part throughout.

Ray Collins as Cornelius Hackl and Michael Fillery as Barnaby Tucker were a great pair, singing and dancing their way throughout this tale in admirable fashion, as did Lynne Carter as Minnie Fay and Lucy Smith as Irene Molloy, another good pairing.

All the other principals created their characters in such a way to make one believe what was going on on stage was true life.

The chorus all acted and sang exceedingly well and it was lovely to see the use made of your younger members who were obviously enjoying themselves as part of the parade. The waiters were well drilled and looked good as did the whole cast. Well done to wardrobe.

The set was minimal but exceedingly suitable for the piece and it looked really good. A nice informative programme with some really good colour photography and thank you for your mention of your affiliation to NODA.

All in all, a super show. Well done to HATS. I shall very much look forward to seeing your future shows.

Brenda Gower Regional NODA Representative