



Irving Stage Company Newsletter

Spring 2010 - Edition 16

Secretary - Julie Merrick
(01638) 716177

GUYS AND DOLLS

Guys and Dolls is an absolute treasure of a musical, packed full of richly cynical characters and deliciously memorable tunes.

Irving Stage Company brought it to glorious technicolour life, with Damon Runyon's New York sinners sporting lurid zoot suits in vivid shades of scarlet, turquoise and tangerine.

The plot is a parody of the classic 'boy meets girl' romance. Gambler Nathan Detroit meets a nightclub singer, strings her along for fourteen years and is finally shamed into marrying her, very much against his will.

In a parallel romance, bad boy Sky Masterson meets a saintly girl, sweeps her off her feet, then is seduced in his turn into a life of piety and preaching. In this world, marriage is a trap laid by women to catch men, and the women are determined to mould the untamed male into a domestic pussycat.

Marc Kerr and Christopher Longman displayed energy, charm and talent as the two gamblers. Longman coped exceptionally well with demanding songs, famously performed by Frank Sinatra. Lyndsey Allsopp as Salvation Army Sgt Sarah Brown and Lynne Nunn as Miss Adelaide were puritan chalk and decadent cheese. Both women made the most of their comic opportunities. Allsopp was brilliantly convincing in an excursion into tipsy salaciousness with *If I Were a Bell*.

The nightclub scene in Havana was enlivened with some superb Latino dance routines. The influence of director and choreographer Siân Couture was very much in evidence throughout, and the large chorus did her proud. *Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat*, especially, was rousing and effective. The nightclub cabaret routines had just the right mix of prurience and modesty.

The only niggle was the complex set, which was slow to change, even with a small army of stage crew. Scene changes did hold up the action, but this was a wonderfully entertaining evening which swept the audience up on a tidal wave of melody and merriment.

Gayle Wade
March 2010

A BIG THANK YOU

May I, on behalf of the committee, take this opportunity of thanking those members that contributed to our production of *Guys and Dolls* either on stage or off. We have received many, many superb comments from the audiences that attended throughout the week and those comments are still being made thick and fast. Siân has underlined, to the committee, how wonderful it was to work with such a talented and committed cast and crew. I hope that you enjoyed the experience of working with us and I hope that you will continue to support the company you have worked so hard to make exciting and vibrant.

So again, on behalf of the committee, may I thank you for a job excellently done and I hope to see you again very soon.

Mark Jefferson

ROMEO AND JULIET *in the Cathedral Cloisters, Bury St Edmunds*

Thursday 15, Friday 16 and Saturday 17 July 2010 Evening performances at 7.30 pm. Saturday Matinee, 2.30 pm

With kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Romeo - Marc Kerr

Other Characters

Director - Tim Lodge

Juliet - Sarah Lockhart

Assistant director - Hannah Gorzelak

Nurse - Christian Jenner

Paul Gort, James Barker, Alistair

Musical director - Carol Kellman

Benvolio - Andy Deane

Robertson, Gayle Wade, David Cook, Laura Mitchell, Carys Swinger, David Messer,

Stage manager - Luke Gammer

Mercutio - Mark Robinson

Jodie Garnish, Aime Bramwell

Costume director - Sarah Brown

Friar Lawrence - Dennis O'Leary

Properties - Juliet Lane/Susan Richardson

Capulet - John Lintin

Production secretary - Daphne Dyer

Lady Capulet - Lynne Nunn

Publicity manager - Gayle Wade