

**DISTRICT 1 – SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
(REVIEWS BY KEITH SCOTT-SAVAGE)**

No reviews available.

**DISTRICT 2 – NORTH DERBYSHIRE
(REVIEWS BY JOYCE HANDBURY)**

CARMEN

Presented by: **MATLOCK MUSICAL THEATRE**
Performance Dates: 25th. - 27th. June 2009
Venue: The Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield
Director: Jim Eaglesham
Musical Director: Jonathan Francis
Choreography: Madeleine Seddon

The star of the show was most definitely Jo Howland. Her superb powerful singing voice and portrayal of the seductress Carmen, brought the stage alive whenever she appeared. Andrew Lockwood as Don Jose coped admirably with the vocals but his stage presence was a little weak whilst the delightful soprano voice of Sarah Potts was tailor-made for the role of Micaela. Indeed, all the principals had fine voices which produced superb solos and duets etc., the chorus were most harmonious if a little too static at times, and the children's chorus was excellent. I think much more could have been made of the choreography especially with the 'Flamenco' which for me, was too simplistic and lacked the vibrancy one associates with the dance. Scene changes were lengthy but the resulting sets were so effective that the wait was soon forgotten and the costumes added to the overall dramatic staging. The orchestra under the direction of the Musical Director, Jonathan Francis, was absolutely magnificent. Congratulations to all concerned in tackling and succeeding in this enterprising undertaking.

TELL LAURA I LOVE HER

Presented by: **GATEPOST THEATRE COMPANY**
Performance Dates: 1st. - 4th. July 2009
Venue: Guildhall Theatre, Derby
Artistic Director: Jim Baker
Musical Director: Kate Baker
Choreographers: Kate Baker & Lisa Peach

The performance of 'Tell Laura I Love Her' is a world premiere production and is written by Richard C. Hague who is a founder member of Gatepost and has played many lead roles with the company. The show is set in the 1950's and early 60's and is based on the No.1 hit song by Ricky Valance. The show was full of humour and songs from this era all of which were brilliantly executed by the principal cast members ably assisted by the company. Tommy Checker, played by Richard C. Hague, was excellent and Shauni Louise Grainger as Laura was a delight. I absolutely loved Rosie Harris, Rebecca Louise Knight and Sarah Knight as The Angels. They were the 'backing group' in so many of the numbers and their harmonious singing was superb. I must mention The Gingerbread People (Naomi Allsop and Katie Duncan) they were scrumptious!! The numerous scene changes, with sets designed and constructed in-house, kept the backstage crew very busy and congratulations must go to them for keeping the show flowing. The on stage band was great, as were the props, costumes and lighting effects. This was a tremendous undertaking by the company and Richard must be extremely grateful to them for having faith in him and his project. Heartiest congratulations to the production team and indeed to everyone involved in this premiere production.

FROM BROADWAY TO HOLLYWOOD AND BACK

Presented by: **BOLSOVER DRAMA GROUP YOUTH SECTION**
Performance Dates: 1st.- 4th. July 2009
Venue: Moorfield Hall Theatre, The Bolsover School
Director: Donna Holmes
Producer: Wendy Blunt
Musical Director: Dawn Shearwood
Choreographers: Lisa Brunt, Lianne Brunt, Toni Fulwood

From start to finish this show was an absolute delight. The first half of the show was narrated by party host Alfred Hitchcock, confidently brought to life by Rachel Ford, and blonde-haired Matthew Allen as Al Johnson was the second half narrator and although his looks were the total reverse of the character, his performance and in particular the rendition of 'My Mammy' was superb. There were so many great performances including Kira Barnett singing beautifully as Judy Garland, Kayley Barnett sparkled as Marilyn Monroe, Alicia Jordon and Rebecca Watson were a real 'Couple of Swells', Laurel & Hardy themselves, would have been very impressed by the performance of Katie Jenkins and Charlotte Blunt, Groucho Marx (Connor Brown) and Charlie Chaplin (Katie Webb) were delightful and Lianne Blunt and Toni Fullwood glamorously tap-danced their way through a routine as Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. The choreographers Lianne Blunt, Toni Fullwood and Lisa Brunt produced some excellent routines and with Donna Knowles - Director, Dawn Shearwood - Musical Director and Wendy Blunt - Producer, good lighting and sets, fantastic costumes, wigs and make-up, and very polished performances from all the cast produced a terrific show and on an evening when the temperatures in the hall were very high credit must go to all for not wilting even though they were in every sense of the word HOT, HOT, HOT!!

DISTRICT 3 - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (REVIEWS BY PHIL WILLIAMS)

No reviews available

DISTRICT 4 – NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE (REVIEWS BY ANNE KEY-HUCKERBY)

FLIPSIDE

Presented by: **LINDSEY RURAL PLAYERS YOUTH THEATRE**
Dates: 4th to 5th September
Venue: Broadbent Theatre, Wickenby
Directors: Jodie Smart and Abigail Wright

Aged between 8 and 18, about 30 aspiring players performed three short plays. These were based on European folk tales and all had strong moral undertones. The results were exciting, amusing and thought-provoking. Clearly a lot of innovative ideas had been incorporated to ensure plenty of variety in the presentation. The first play, The Twelve Stones, hinted at the more familiar Cinderella story with Evichka enlisting the help of people through the ages to achieve triumph over evil. The second tale, Salt is Sweeter than Gold, followed a similar pattern. The moral here was a kind heart is preferable to selfishness. The final play, Nasrusin's Coat, showed that first impressions may not necessarily be correct. All the youngsters performed well and I was impressed with their demeanour. They worked well together to provide a most entertaining evening.

**DISTRICT 5 – SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE
(REVIEWS BY PETER BREACH)**

THE BOY FRIEND

Presented by: **GRANTHAM YOUTH THEATRE SOCIETY**
Performance dates: 26th to 29th August 09
Venue: Kings School, Grantham
Director: Hannah Coleman
Musical Director: Tim Williams
Choreographer: Sophie Knowles

This show was presented to a capacity audience that well appreciated the energy and enthusiasm of the young cast (aged 16 to 30). Although performed in the round without scenery the judicious use of props and costumes ensured that the audience were made aware of the locations at which the activities were supposed to be taking place. It has to be acknowledged that the fine lyrics to the songs in this show also greatly assist in conveying the story line.

There was a very good balance of sound levels between the singers and the orchestra, this, together with clear diction and projection from the actors meant the audience was kept in touch with all that was going on. The dance routines were innovative and well executed with the participants retaining smiles on their faces that gave the impression that they really were a vivacious and fun-loving crowd.

The standard of acting was high with some very good characterisation, particularly from Leonie Spilsbury as Hortense, Cathryn Garner as Madame Dubonnet and Bill Davies with Anna Wilson as Lord and Lady Brockhurst. Special mention must be made of Hannah Coleman who directed the show with limited rehearsal time and then was also required to undertake a major role in the production, as a member of the cast was suddenly unavailable. Well done all concerned for providing such uplifting entertainment.

**DISTRICT 6A – NORTH LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND
(REVIEWS BY MARTIN TAILBY)**

No reviews available.

**DISTRICT 6B – SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE & LEICESTER
(REVIEWS BY CHRISTINE CLARKE)**

No reviews available.

**DISTRICT 7 – NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(REVIEWS BY KEVIN SHEEN)**

No reviews available.

**DISTRICT 8 – SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & MILTON KEYNES
(REVIEWS BY NANETTE LOVELL)**

No reviews available.