

'The Producers' Wranglers Theatre Company

3rd June 2017 – Muse Theatre, Lipson Co-operative Academy

Director and Choreography – Wendy Holmes

Musical Director – Gavin Martin

I could review this show in just one word 'WOW'

From start to finish it was a totally hilarious and so gloriously irreverent and the cast have obviously enjoyed rehearsals and it showed throughout this marvellous production.

Jonathan Clarke relished the part of Max Bialystock the failed Hollywood producer, with his partnership with Leo Bloom to his little old ladies and their money for services rendered. Brilliant Ben Davis as Leo Bloom was a wonderful piece of casting starting with his timid entrance and inspection of Max's books to his love affair with Ulla just a delight to watch and he has the most expressive eyebrows I have seen in all my years as a N.O.D.A Rep. Jonathan Brown as Franz Liebkind was another piece of excellent casting as the writer of the worst show ever written he hammed it up so well and because of watching his two dances especially 'Dor Guten Tag Hop-Clop I nearly missed the dancing pigeons!! Enter now Gareth Davis as Roger De Bris who is going to direct the show 'Springtime for Hitler' another great performance from Gareth how he enjoys wearing a frock!! Josh Cook also a very talented young man played Carmen Ghia yet another well tuned portrayal of an effeminate factotum.

Roger De Bris' production team all deserve a mention. Scott (Choreography Dan Lidstone, Bryan (Set Designer), Jamie Corson who also played Jack, Storm Trooper Rolf and Sergeant O'Toole, Kevin (Costume Designer), Geoff Coventry who also played 4 other parts and Shirley Markowitz (Lighting) Alison Davis, their renditions of keep it gay was hilarious. Clare Field gave a beautifully crafted performance as Ulla, both Max and Leo fall for her but she gets off with Leo and her Swedish accent was perfect. There were many highlights in this show. The little old lady Land, (Haben Sie Gehort Das Deutsches Band) and of course the routine for Springtime for Hitler.

As this is a school theatre with all its restrictions the set by Geoff Coventry, John Little and Richard Steadman was perfect and props also by Geoff. Dancing as always was stunning and costumes from Triple C's, Flame Torquay and Irene Willcocks were beautiful and in period. Sound and lighting are always good from this Company and the seven piece band sitting away in a distant classroom were exceptional.

Thank you so much for such an enjoyable evening and good luck to Ben Davis as he moves on to hopefully a professional life in theatre.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

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