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HENFIELD THEATRE COMPANY.
"BROADWAY PIRATES".
DIRECTOR - CHRIS WHITEHEAD.
MUSICAL DIRECTOR - LESLEY BARNES.
CHOREOGRAPHER - JANE HAINES.

This was a highly successful production. It was not the two hundred miles per hour, crazy, exhausting "Broadway Pirates" I have seen on a few occasions but it certainly was much slicker than the standard "Pirates".

Myles Locke as Frederic was both suitably innocent and dashing as required, sang well and, like all the cast, spoke clearly. In a first major role in operetta, Alice Malyon gave a highly commendable performance. She too sang well and had exactly the right presence for the role.

Ian Henham was a splendid Pirate King. He did command the stage as is essential for the role and made the most of every opportunity to get his laughs.

Stuart Box, with his extensive G&S background and knowledge, was nothing short of first class as the Major General. His patter song was brilliant and a lesson to any aspiring Major Generals.

Susan Camp filled all the requirements for a Ruth: Warm, weeding, hurt and remorseful. She maintained her rustic accent very well except when singing - which she did admirably.

Brian Jones led his motley band of Policemen with complete abandon. I must confess a preference for the traditional, staid, gormless policemen's chorus, but this version was extremely well done and entertained the audience perfectly.

Nick Cryer made a little more of Samuel than is often the case and received the appropriate groans from the audience with his bag of offensive weapons. Helen Fyles, Sylvia Ashthorpe and Anne Henderson as Edith, Kate and Isabel provided excellent support to the main principals.

The chorus sang well and made full use of the stage. One noticeable feature was their expressive reactions to the dialogue. The inclusion of a second singing of "Hail Poetry", albeit with other words, was an enjoyable touch.

Lesley Barnes and her orchestra could not be faulted. At no stage did they overwhelm the principals and, with a couple of minor exceptions, the chorus followed the baton.

The scenery was admirable - particularly the two ships and the destruction of one of them. The costumes were excellent and those responsible have every reason to be proud of their efforts.

This was delightful entertainment - and don't let anyone tell you otherwise!

Phillip Hall

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