

**BRISTOL MUSICAL THEATRE – CRAZY FOR YOU – THE REDGRAVE THEATRE
2 MAY 2019**

Directors – Ben Jenkins – Charlotte Bell – Steph Ammerlaan
Musical Director – Andy Allpass Choreography – Mandie Love-Williams

Crazy for You was first seen on stage on Broadway in 1992 and then in the West End in 1993 where it ran for three years. There have been various revivals the last in 2016 touring between 2017 and 2018. The musical is a romantic comedy, a blend of music, laughter, dancing sentiment and showmanship, largely based on Gershwin's Girl Crazy, but also using songs from "Shall we Dance" "Damsels in Distress" "Oh Kay" and one or two others.

When I first heard that BMT were going to present this musical, which is all singing and dancing I was a little sceptical as it seemed very ambitious, but as it turned out I shouldn't have worried because BMT pulled all the stops out and we were presented with a first class production

This production had it's first "tri-directorate" (Three Directors) each person bringing their own talents to the vision of the show. Ben with his knowledge of music, Charlotte with her experience and Steph with her acting and dancing, each adding their knowledge. The show was well cast and had been well rehearsed, especially the choreography, into which the cast put all their energy and enthusiasm.

SET

Well done to the Set Designers Ingrid Mengdehl and Edith Hermann who created an all-purpose set and placed it on various levels, this worked well with the scene changes being done smoothly and quietly by the cast, allowing the production to flow

LIGHTING

Lighting Designer and Technical Director Paul Lewis made sure that Lighting Programmer George Malin and Operator Conor Sherrard lit the cast well and there were no dark spots.

SOUNDS

Often I criticise the sounds as with the use of radio mikes the sound can often be unnatural but Joe D'Souza and Talek Semmens who were in charge of the sounds made sure that we were treated to natural sounding singing and speaking, they were perfect, congratulations to both of you.

MUSIC

Musical Director Andy Allpass had obviously worked the cast hard and we had some excellent harmonies from the cast. Placing the orchestra at the rear above the stage worked well, and Conductor Andy Allpass kept a tight rein on the Orchestra there was a good balance so that they played at the right levels. .

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374 790 **Fax** 01733 237 286 **Email** info@noda.org.uk **Web** www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets **Facebook** NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered charity number 254640 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address. **Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber**

CHOREOGRAPHY

Mandie Love-Williams created some impressive choreography, the tap dancing was excellent, and it was obvious that you had rehearsed them well. and the cast looked as though they had been dancing forever. The Main characters danced as if it came naturally to them and there was so much energy, enthusiasm and most of all done with a smile on their faces, they looked to be enjoying themselves. Well done

COSTUMES

Jane Stuart-Brown had her work cut out to provide all of the colourful costumes, congratulations on making sure that all the cast were dressed in period outfits and especially the pink outfits of the Follies which lit up the stage when they appeared.

THE CAST

BOBBY CHILD (Josh Bayton)

This character needs to be an excellent dancer, singer and actor, because he is on stage for a large part of the show being involved in 12 songs. Josh ticked all the necessary boxes and gave an outstanding performance. We could feel the attraction between you and Polly and the drunk scene with Bela was comedy at its best. Good clear singing and speaking voice and your dancing was impressive, you took command of the stage, there was good interaction with all the members of the cast, and you handled all of your twelve songs with ease. Congratulations on a professional style performance.

BELA ZANGLER (Dominic Ammerlaan)

This character is the musical producer and must have an Hungarian accent, also must have good comedy timing. Dom found this easy to do and gave an excellent performance, there was the flirtation with Tess which Dom interacted well with her and with Bobby, especially in the hilarious drunk scene of the song "What Causes That" where it is essential that the characters mirror each other, this was well handled, this was first class performance, well done.

LANK HAWKINS (Scott Allen)

This is another comedy role, the character being in love with Polly, but is also out to take the Deadrock Theatre away from her and her Father. Scott was well suited to this role and brought out all the comedy, there was good interaction with Polly and the other members of the cast, and you were completely at the mercy of Irene in the song "Naughty Baby" where she seduces you. Well-done on a convincing performance.

EVERETT BAKER (Terry Maggs)

Polly's father, always reminiscing about the days gone by and your wife, Terry made this role his own and gave a confident performance, you interacted well with Polly and you are attracted to Lottie Child, who is domineering and bossy and this suits you, so that you fall madly in love with her. Well done on a convincing performance.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374 790 **Fax** 01733 237 286 **Email** info@noda.org.uk **Web** www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets **Facebook** NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered charity number 254640 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address. **Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber**

POLLY BAKER (Kat Stokes)

Everett's daughter and the only woman in Deadrock, this has to be a strong character who takes charge every time she enters and Kat created just the right role, this was a confident and strong performance, you had obviously thought about the character and you interacted well with Bobby and it was obvious that you were in love with him. You have a natural stage presence and gave an outstanding performance, good dancing and a clear strong singing voice, you took command on stage on your entrances. Congratulations on a memorable performance.

TESS (Anna Prior)

Follies Dancer pursued by Bela Zangler, there was good interaction between you and Bela, always just out of reach, this was a confident performance, good dancing and a strong clear voice, and as always, all done with a smile on your face, a well-thought-out performance, well done.

IRENE ROTH (Cathy Marsh)

Bobby's domineering fiancé of five years, you created just the character that the role demands and you finally accept the fact that Bobby won't marry you and then you fall madly in love with Lank and you seduce him with your song "Naughty Baby" a natural performance you have a good clear voice and you dance well, this was a well thought out interpretation of the character, well done.

EUGENIE FODOR (Mandie Love-Williams) - PATRICIA FODOR (Claire Page)

I couldn't understand the role that these two characters took, they seemed out of place, but despite that you both made a lasting impression and you both managed to go OTT and there was some excellent comedy moments between you and the citizens of Deadrock, well done on two eye-catching performances.

MRS LOTTIE CHILD (Debbie Tonkin)

Bobby's business orientated and controlling Mother, Debbie made the role her own and we were treated to a convincing portrayal of the character, good interaction with Bobby and other members of the cast, this was a strong performance, you brought out all the sides of the role and finally you captured the heart of Polly's father. Well done on a convincing performance.

PERKINS (Rob Wood)

Only a brief appearance, but as the bank employee you looked just right in your attitude and stance, you were also Custus of the cowboys, a confident performance, well done.

THE FOLLIES

An all singing and dancing group of eight, with the appropriate movement and high-pitched voices of the period you all looked the part, in your pink sparkling costumes Excellent dancing and singing you all lit up the stage on your appearances, well done on your outstanding performances.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374 790 **Fax** 01733 237 286 **Email** info@noda.org.uk **Web** www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets **Facebook** NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered charity number 254640 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address. **Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber**



Be inspired by amateur theatre

THE COWBOYS

Suitably attired in cowboy hats and costumes, there was some strong singing and dancing from you all, Your songs “Bidin’ my time “ and “The real American Folk Song” were well handled, some good harmonies and you all stayed in character, well done on convincing performances.

ENSEMBLE

This show requires a strong chorus who can take the many parts and who can all dance, sing and act, BMT is fortunate to have one, you all worked as a team staying in your characters and being part of the action, well done on your excellent performances.

I thoroughly enjoyed the show and came away with the music going around in my head. Congratulations to Musical Director Andy Allpass ,Directors Ben. Charlotte and Steph for all their hard work, this was well rehearsed and to Mandie for her excellent choreography. Also, to the cast who must have been worn out at the end of each show putting so much energy and enthusiasm into their performances.

Thank you for your invitation and warm welcome front of house and I look forward to being invited to your next production.

Tony Winstone
NODA Representative – District 13

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374 790 **Fax** 01733 237 286 **Email** info@noda.org.uk **Web** www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets **Facebook** NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered charity number 254640 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address. **Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber**