

Spring 2012 - 'Anything Goes'

An appreciative audience greeted the Opening Night of the lively 'Anything Goes' at the Public Hall, Beccles, and the week continued in the same vein. By the time we got to Last Night the word had got around that here was a show not to be missed and so tickets were selling fast. The cheer that went up from cast and audience alike as the last chord faded into the night was an indication of just how much fun and enjoyment the show had generated - a truly joyous week.

Starring Bing Crosby, Donald O'Connor and Mitzi Gaynor in the Broadway revival, this Cole Porter classic is set on the liner S.S. American and features songs such as 'I Get A Kick Out Of You', 'You're The Top', 'All Through The Night', 'It's De-Lovely' and, of course, 'Anything Goes'. Great plaudits must go to our Stage Director, the ever-dependable Christine Mullord, who, together with Stuart Lamb as Musical Director, gave us a production to be proud of. The style and content of the show are exactly what this duo revel in, so a fast-moving, innovative and (most importantly!) highly enjoyable production was always guaranteed. Innovation is nothing without teamwork however, and the stage crew rose magnificently to the occasion under the direction of Sam Chenery-Morris to produce slick and efficient scene-changes which really kept the action moving. Expert handling of lights and sound by our technical crew ensured everything went without a hitch, and one hardly need say that the band were at their very best, giving us not only a solid, hard-driving base to the lavish production numbers but also sensitive accompaniment to the more wistful ballads.

Way back in November last year the auditions were a hard-fought affair, when we were astounded by the dramatic and vocal skills of our candidates - mainly in a good way, I hasten to add! After lengthy deliberation, the Audition Panel gave us the following star-studded line-up of principal characters:-

Reno Sweeney - Debbie Lambert	Billy Crocker - Ian Cook	Hope
Harcourt - Ruth Alder		
Erma - Helen Roscoe	Lord Evelyn Oakley - Bob Sharman	Elisha J. Witney -
David Ludlow		
Moonface Martin - Jason Lambert	Captain - Peter Simmen	Purser -
Stephen Brown		
Mrs Harcourt - Anna Fisher	Rev. Henry T. Dobson - Mike Catling	

A very strong line-up there, who all responded magnificently and gave us excellent performances - well done to you all. The chorus were never far behind though, and astounded everyone (probably including themselves!) by producing some of the finest dance sequences ever seen on the Public Hall stage, thanks to expert (and very patient!) tuition from the wonderful Jean Cator.

Every show is, of course, (in the eyes of its cast at least) "the best yet" but 'Anything Goes' was certainly one of the happiest shows backstage anyone can remember. The mix of ages in the cast is a great asset for the future of the Society so long may it continue. If we can keep producing shows of this quality then WLOG will be around for many years yet!