

Chipperfield Theatre Group  
Chipperfield Village Hall  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2009  
Sweeney Todd Shock 'n' Roll Show

This was my first visit to a production by this company and I received a very warm welcome from Production Secretary Jill Summerfield and her husband Adrian, who had produced excellent posters and a very informative programme.

Director TRICIA RICHARDSON had obviously worked hard on this very different production.

For me the person who stood out was ANNE PINKUS in the role of Angelo. She maintained the Italian accent throughout and all aspects of her performance were excellent.

LISA CALCUTT in the role of Mrs Lovett overcame a minor loss of dialogue at the start to give a very convincing and vocally strong performance.

Beaujolais Pickle played by JENNY HEUSEN was very good as was her assistant Grovel played by MELANIE WINWARD they are both excellent character actors and were very amusing.

Tommy was well played by TIM Podd but I felt that JAMES EAST as Billy seemed a little insecure in the role.

ALISON Podd was very convincing as a drunk; I wonder how much research she did for the role!

Although she only had a very small solo vocal I must mention IMOGEN BULTITUDE. She has a lovely voice and I hope she will

have a larger role in future productions. She was also very energetic in her role as a Newsboy.

The children who played the Mini Policemen were very good in both their acting and vocally.

I didn't feel that LAUREN-AMELIA JACKSON was very convincing as the Pickpocket; she could have put a little more energy into the role.

Very disappointing was ROBERT PEACOCK in the role of Sweeney Todd. I felt there was little depth in his performance and he could have been more menacing.

His assistant Tobias played by NIKKI CLOUGH was also very disappointing. Her performance was very stiff and lacked energy although her vocals came over fairly well.

Alonso, although a small role, was well played by JOE HENSON ably assisted by Foozle played by WENDY EAST who put loads of energy into the role and dealt well with the rowdy hecklers.

Unfortunately I am not sure who played Orlando on the Friday night, but whoever it was did a very good job.

The set was good and congratulations must go to DEREK LOFTY for his excellent 'Chair'

Lighting and sound were both good although the sound effects at one point were a little loud making it hard to hear the dialogue.

Costumes were very good although I felt Tobias was wearing a very smart jacket considering his circumstances.

I thought the band was an excellent combination and DAVID CLOUGH as Musical Director had obviously worked very hard with the company.

The Barbershop Quartet of DAVID BARNES, DAVID CLOUGH, CHRIS DAY and ALAN GRANT were very enjoyable and it was a nice idea to have them singing at the individual tables.

The selling of pies in the interval was an excellent idea and I am sure very much appreciated by those brave enough to eat them!

Overall this was an enjoyable evening and I look forward to future productions.