

**Colchester Operatic Society (CO2)
Guys & Dolls
Director David King
Musical Director Robert Miles
Choreographer Adam Woodhouse
Performed at the Mercury Theatre**

27th September 2012

This is the third time CO2 has performed Guys & Dolls and what a show David King gave us from the opening Runyon Land to the ultimate happy ending the pace did not let up throughout.

A great company show from start to finish with slick dance routines, great songs and terrific chorus numbers, everything to put CO2 well and truly on the map with a first class performance.

Robert Gathercole as Nathan Detroit got this character spot on with excellent timing total commitment to the role and a great singing voice. Coupled with Laura LeBlanc as a very feisty Miss Adelaide it was a delightful pairing. Laura had a real feel for Adelaide and was a pleasure to watch.

Richard Bland as Sky Masterson gave a relaxed laid back Sky. Word perfect and totally in charge of his role. Great duets with Emily-May Hyde as Sarah Brown added to the enjoyment. Emily has a strong high range with clear diction and again another duo well matched.

Wade Ablitt as Nicely Nicely also gave a spirited performance “Sit Down Your Rockin’ the Boat” was one of the outstanding numbers in the show. Again a confident competent performance. Well done!

“Fugue for Tinhorns” is a great number in the show and Nicely, Benny played by Barney Fritz & Rusty Charlie played by Will Mugford bounced this number along as the opening trio.

With so many individual character parts all well cast it is impossible to comment on each and every one, but all put their own stamp from Harry the Horse through to Big Jule on the diverse roles.

“Luck be a Lady” another stand out number was so well choreographed, and with the line up of all the guys the singing and harmonies were great. Rarely do you see so many young men in a show all giving such drive and enthusiasm, which is a credit to the production team at Colchester.

The show was so colourful in every aspect it filled the stage with brightness and life.

I did feel the dance sequence in the Havana number although very well performed was quite long.

Some of the musical numbers had a rather more modern feel to the orchestration especially in Arvide’s lovely solo “More I cannot Wish You” which is a rather gentle reflective sort of number and the orchestration seemed very busy, which rather detracted from this quiet song which was well sung by Gareth Gwyn Jones.

This production for David King was a winner and many Congratulations to him in his debut as Director.

Musically under the baton of Robert Miles some good sounds were achieved, and Adam Woodhouse gave us some very exciting choreography.

A mention to all the production team is well deserved who work tirelessly backstage in so many aspects from chaperones, lighting, sound, props, wardrobe, stage crew and FOH to mention but a few and without them no show would be possible. A high standard was very evident in this production.