

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY SECOND EDITION (CO2)

GREASE

Director & Choreographer Dani Fincham/ assisted by Leanne Fincham

Musical Director Neil Somerville

Performed at the Mercury Theatre

26th September 2014

Revisiting their first production of "Grease" as performed by the group in 1984, CO2 celebrated their 30th Anniversary production and delighted the audiences with another star studded cast in this 2014 fast moving show which I found a privelege to watch.

The personal feel which every principal gave to their characters gave the show a special boost, with some outstanding performances.

The pairing of Will Mugford as Danny Zuko and Molly Osborne as Sandy Dumbrowski was so good as the two lead characters, and so it continued through all the terrific interpretations in the diversity of the roles played by all the cast. From the amazing range of voice and energy from Barney Fritz playing Roger, which was a "stand out" performance, through to all the guys, Harry Totham as Kenikie, Connor Prachett as Doody and the unforgettable Wade Ablitt playing Sonny and Teen Angel, with a great voice and personality as another "stand out" performer.

The elegant Eleanor Tate as Rizzo, Arianna Bland as Jan, Sophie Pike as Frenchy and Katherine Hinchcliff as Marty and so the list goes on, all the girls matched the excellence of the guys, each and every one giving terrific performances, as did the entire cast.

A mention for Tom Saye as the hapless Eugene is a must, totally absorbed in his colourful character, very cleverly played another "Star" performance.

The work that the production team puts in with this company is truly the backbone of the continued success time after time.

Dani, Neil and Leanne heading the team, through to the Wardrobe, Make up and Hair, the very important roles of Chaperones, and of course not forgetting the backstage crew, all are "stars" in their own right and credit and tribute must be duly given to so many who are unseen but vital in CO2's standard of excellence. Every show performed never fails to delight, and to see a sell out production every night surely speaks for itself.

Dani puts so much for the audience to absorb in her productions and choreography, ably assisted by Leanne, and super talented Musical Director Neil brings the singing alive. A great team working together.

The singing from the ensemble numbers was exceptionally good, as was the slick choreography with so much energy and drive.

Great sets and costumes also (all fitting well which is a must). A super evening with the company. Many Congratualations for 30 years of entertainment.

I look forward to "Legally Blonde" as an Amateur Regional Premiere in the area next year.

Thank you for your hospitality. and the warm welcome from so many people. which is always appreciated.