**Noda Review**

**TAOS Musical Theatre – Guys and Dolls**

**Arc Theatre Trowbridge**

**Thursday 6th June 2013**

**Petra Schofield – NODA SW Rep. District 10**

**A lovely warm welcome at The Arc theatre and a great opportunity to meet another of the District 10 societies and see what they get up to.**

**The open staging was impressive and worked well, the extension of the performance area through the fire exit for the Mission was also a good touch that provided depth to the proceedings. The orchestra were well contained and under great control by Julian Clementson, lovely always to hear a good band.**

**The use of the overture as a prologue to the action was highly successful; it immediately set the pace and helped engage the audience immediately. The projection also worked well, although it might have been more useful to have an actual black slide for use during blackouts to hide the slight ghosting effect that occurred.**

**From the outset it was evident that this is a strong company with a good balance of ladies and gents. Paul West (Nathan Detroit) was a suitably roguish chap whose conscience eventually gets the better of him, well sung and a great partnership with Sarah Hanks (Miss Adelaide.)**

**The numbers within the hot box club were both well choreographed (Allison Moore) and executed with energy and commitment by the Hot Box Dolls.**

**Anthony Brown (Sky Masterson) came into his own during “Luck Be a Lady” really capturing the shape of the song and the urgency of the crap shooters. This was a good strong performance matched well by Francesca Denneny (Sarah Brown.)**

**Dennis Carr (Arvide Abernathy) captured “More I cannot wish you” with great sincerity, a well rounded and charming performance of such a touching song.**

**Andrew Curtis (Nicely Nicely Johnson) again showed the depth of quality of singers in the group, “Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat” should be and thankfully was a strong moment in the show, well choreographed and making great use of the dynamics of the piece.**

**All characters were well crafted the cameos had been directed with care and attention making it really feel like a company the confidence across the production was without fault, Lyn Taylor (Director) had captured the mood and pace well, the second Act moved with greater energy but that is often the case with a show that has a certain amount of “setting up” to do.**

**The lighting (Martyn Johnson) was effective and atmospheric complementing the overall style of the piece and costumes were also well chosen.**

**The sound was very high in treble and often made the voices sound a little thin. Whilst the balance with the band was generally good, there were moments where the amplification detracted slightly from the vocals – the balance in the company numbers was not an issue.**

**This was a strong production and it is easy to see why TAOS have won awards in the past. The overall standard was high and the company were footsure and evidently having a great time.**

**Thank you for the invitation and I look forward to seeing your next production.**

**Very Best Wishes**

**Petra Schofield**

**NODA SW District Councillor (Region 10)**