



Theatre Review

Review: Orphans Galore

Venue: Studio Theatre, Salisbury

Date: 25 February 2011

Reviewer: Charlotte Araya Moreland

What would happen if everyone over 18 just disappeared? What would happen to the ones left behind- the babies and children and teenagers? What would they do with no doctors, policemen, electricity or water? How would they handle it? How would they survive the unwarned blackouts and keep going on their own?

Originally written as a musical, Orphans Galore was a curious play, with really rather an odd storyline, and a not very substantial plot, and I feel that this really was a bit of a let down, as the young people's acting was superb, and the general atmosphere created by them was rather realistic, if one could imagine the world with no adults.

As this play had been adapted and changed from the original musical version, one felt that some bits of the play were lost with the music, and too many parts were unnecessarily emphasised. Although the opening scene of the play did go on to explain the general situation, being plunged straight into a mass of sobbing children with no real idea of what was going on was quite confusing.

However, even with the slightly off storyline, the acting was fantastic, and made the play much more enjoyable. One of the best performances given were from the main character, Jafe, as I felt the actor who played him really made him his own character, giving him a sort of mysterious, sticky edge, and really one to shamble around a lot. All of the actors spoke well, -notably the girl who played Kev, as she leapt about the stage with much enthusiasm and brightness- with expression, clarity and emphasis, even with the rather bad play they were given.

Overall, I felt that this play was not very interesting, but entertaining enough, and that I would only recommend it to young people, and especially not to the older generation. I do not, however, feel that the actors did a bad job at all, and I definitely look forward to the next play they put on, as I'm sure it will show of their skills much better than this rather disappointing play.

*The Young Reviewers Club is run by The Unit,
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