

## The king and I

**Date** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Society** ELODS

**Venue** Wyllyotts Theatre potters Bar

I was delighted to be asked by Mark Shaw to do a review of this production. This traditional Rogers and Hammerstein's popular musical set in the 1860's with its memorable music was portrayed by ELODS perfectly.

The overture played by the well balanced band under the wonderful musical direction of **Mark Newport** set the standard of the show. The scenery and staging was set to perfection with slick scene changes and authentic props that were used efficiently throughout this production. Lighting and sound also complemented the stage.

This show was perfectly cast under the direction of **Rich Stoughton** who managed to bring out the best of this popular well known musical.

I thoroughly enjoyed the march of the Siamese children (which can often be long and repetitive) but this was not the case. These children were a delight to watch and had the audience in the palm of their hands, they were all well groomed and disciplined throughout each having their own moment to shine making the king feel very proud of his royal family.

The choreography by **Emma Bell** was excellent and in keeping with the period of the show, I particularly enjoyed the Ballet in act 2, this was beautifully portrayed with clear diction from the narrator and performed by the cast in dance explaining the story of "the small house of Uncle Thomas" very well.

Anna **Naomi Delamore** was perfectly cast with her delightful pleasant manor, she gave an emotional performance with singing and acting just right. She looked amazing and carried off those beautiful dresses to perfection. I particularly enjoyed her song "Shall I tell you what I think of you" This was carefully thought out and performed to perfection an absolute joy to watch.

The king played by **David Macklin** was amazing and believable to watch, His strong acting and singing took us through the emotional story line and his repour with Anna was great. This was a great performance from a very experienced actor. I enjoyed his duet with Anna shall we dance and was delighted to see them fill the whole stage with their polka which ended with a rousing applause from the audience.

Lady Thiang **Sarah Henderson** was fabulous in this role, she sang and acted well giving us an amazing rendition of something wonderful. A Joy to watch.

Tup Tim **Jude Stoughton** was just perfect from her looks to her portrayal of the character catching every emotion just right. She sang her songs with feeling showing her love for Lun Tha. I enjoyed her beautiful narrating of the ballet with her clear diction helping us to understand the story well done.

Lun Tha **Steven Berman** acted and sang well, he portrayed the character perfectly and his love for Tup Tim was shown well.

Louis leonowens **Jed Baldwin** well what can I say from the moment this young performer stepped on the stage you were automatically drawn in. He was a delight to watch with his very clear diction, singing and facial expressions, a star in the making well done.

Prince Chulalonghorn **Archie Beach** was great as the heir to the throne, his performance was spot on making us believe he was next in charge as he copied his father the king's mannerism's, well done.

All supporting roles were equally believable and well portrayed. The ensemble were good they all sang and acted well.

The costumes were amazing colourful and authentic, well done to the wardrobe mistress **Hilary Thorne** who had obviously worked very hard in making sure each character was perfectly dressed.

I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and so did the audience. It was lovely to hear such wonderful comments from the audience in the foyer after the show.

Well done **ELODS** on a very successful production, I look forward to seeing more productions in the future.

**Angie Frost**