

Review

SNOOPY!!! THE MUSICAL

Based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M Schulz

Performed by NOMADS directed by Gail Baker.

Kings Theatre, Newmarket 5 December 2012

Fans of the famous "Peanuts" cartoons will need little introduction to this show. Everyone's favourite dog Snoopy First World War Flying Ace and potential novelist played with great gusto by **Andy Ward** was a real hit. In and out of his kennel, lying on top surveying the skies and watching the activities of "the gang" below as they went about their every day lives at school and at play. His days are added to by his own feathered friend Woodstock (**Jodie Corbett**) who never quite gets things right.

In the vein of *Blue Remembered Hills* the children in this show are all played by adults, so they have to remember when they were between six and a half and eight years old. This they all did extremely well helped by the lovely childish costumes.

Liam Corbett as Snoopy's owner Charlie Brown lead this little gang who all seem to know what is best for him. Sister Sally (**Rosmy Cesaro**) thinks she knows everything but doesn't because she's only six, except she knows she loves Linus played by **Stefan Stavrakakis** who only loves his blanket (called George Washington). His sister Lucy (played by **Jennifer Nolan**) considers she has the brains and the beauty and many talents including that of being a psychiatrist: a talent which she practices on poor Charlie Brown. Completing this little gang is **Ebony Chamberlain-King** as Patricia (or Peppermint Patty) who is intent on becoming a professional baseball player and who is lovesick for Charlie Brown. Needless to say this love is unrequited. This was a real tour de force by this team.

It is hard to describe this show. I suppose it is a comic-strip with music and is amusing rather than funny but the music is great. Lots of toe-tapping tunes: but some touching ones too. Musical Director **Simon Pearce** and his musicians **Kerry La Porte** and **Andy Clifton** excelled themselves and so did the cast with some nifty footwork courtesy of **Jess Clifford**.

The setting was excellent: creating a real comic book look with a fantastic kennel for Snoopy which he made the most of. The lighting too, by **Big Al Baxter**, complimented things wonderfully.

There was nothing much to criticize in this production. In fact I would say it was one of the most faultless productions I have seen for some while. It was sad though that the audience on the Wednesday night was considerably smaller than I am used to seeing in the Kings Theatre. Maybe it was because it is something new: but then again, every show is new once. However, those that missed it missed a good 'un. **Gail Baker's** team did her proud. Congratulations to all involved.