

Review

Young Nomads Hit Broadway.

directors Gail Baker and Alan Gleed

In the programme notes director Gail Baker said "this show is presented as a showcase for the talent in Young Nomads" and that is exactly what it was. This all singing, all dancing production cleverly put together with familiar and not so familiar songs from the shows gave members from 8 to 19 the chance to show what they can do.

Divided into age groups the first half was handed to the 8 to 13 year olds. The opening five minutes was fast and furious leaving us in no doubt that this was how it was going to be. Full on commitment and enthusiasm.

There was a good mix of slow, and not so slow, numbers, giving some of the young cast a chance to shine. Some nice duets and one or two solos pointed up the potential talent coming through the Nomads ranks. I much enjoyed the girls' *It's a Hard Knock Life* and the boys' *Bad Guys* but the sheer concentration by Emma Brewer and the whole company with *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* was incredibly impressive.

Aside from the songs, these very young performers coped with learning and executing a huge amount of choreography which they did very well indeed. Every single member of the junior company gave it their all and, whilst it is a bit unfair to pick people out I am looking forward to seeing more of Olivia Stevens, Matthew Lynch and James Diss as they progress.

As you would expect from the senior company, aged 13-19 the skill and talent already shows. From the great opening to the second half with *Footloose* this was impressive. Absolutely loved *Gee! Officer Krupke* from the boys, led well by Joseph Hall, and the girls' *Cell Block Tango* was a real winner.

There was a lot of music from the newer musicals in the second half but all done with verve and enjoyment. *Take Me As I Am* was very well done and *Radio Ga Ga* thoroughly enjoyed by all. Joseph Beach showed he is a chip off the old block with *Master of the House* where he was joined by a confident and tuneful Mikaela Ruddell and the company. Two performances which stood out amongst some very good ones came from Rosmy Cesaro with *No One But You* and Ebony Chamberlain-King, pitch perfect with *Quiet*. Finally finishing up and leaving us wanting more with the wonderful *Do You Hear the People Sing?* and *Bring on Tomorrow*.

As always, these young people had the excellent guidance and back-up of the NOMADS machine with directors Gail Baker and Alan Gleed, Musical directors Katy McCormick and Craig Stevens and choreographers Jessica Clifford and Sinead Mathias.

This show gave the young cast the opportunity, as the programme said, to say "look at me, I can do it and can do it quite well". Well they showed they can do it but not quite well, they did it exceedingly well.

Julie Petrucci

Regional Representative NODA East District 4S