

'Mary Poppins Jr' - Kirkham Grammar Junior School - 27.3.2019

Kirkham Grammar Junior School were delighted when they received permission to perform this iconic musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film, in conjunction with Cameron Mackintosh.

The new film of Mary Poppins has just been released this year and I am sure many of the cast will have had an opportunity to see it and be inspired by both the story and the music.

The high standard expected by this school has again been attained and I am delighted to say that this was one of their best.

Helen Shuttleworth, Producer and Director, with Shelley Stott, Assistant Director and Choreographer, had clearly worked tirelessly with the entire School to produce a spectacular and memorable production.

The school is always aware of the importance and input of each pupil and gives each of them equal opportunity.

Junior 1 and Junior 2 skipped into view dressed in black and wearing silver bowler hats, waving to the audience and creating the correct atmosphere in the hall, even before the show commenced.

The discipline involved in creating this show was exemplary as every pupil knew exactly what to do, whether it was as a principal or as part of the ensemble. The whole production was a great team effort and plaudits must go to teachers, parents and friends who have helped and encouraged along the way.

This was technically one of the school's most ambitious shows because of the many scene, props and costume changes.

Sound and lighting were first class, producing the correct ambience throughout.

I am always impressed by the many talented principals who appear in productions by this school and this year was no exception.

Brooke Medhurst's, Mary Poppins, was a delightful interpretation of the iconic role. She had beautiful vocals, excellent diction and made great use of the playing area. If this young lady decides to make the Stage her career I believe she would be very successful.

Morgan Cuthbert as Bert was always in character. His every entrance was a joy and he personified the cheeky, cockney character so well.

Jane and Michael Banks, Meesha Almodaka-Davis and Gabriella Pearson, were outstanding as the two children in Mary's care. They understood exactly what was required of these characters and were obviously enjoying themselves.

I did enjoy the cameo role of Mrs Brill, played by Sophie Rawlinson. She was a delight to watch as she bustled around the stage as the very funny Housekeeper. Her comic timing was excellent.

I could tell from the audience reaction that my wife and myself were not alone in thinking that we had seen another outstanding production.

We have been delighted to see your productions over the last six years and we shall certainly be supporting you in the future as part of Kirkham Grammar's 'Family'. Thank you so much for your warm welcome.

Eddie Regan (NODA)

The logo for NODA (National Organisation of Drama and Amateur Theatre) features the word "noda" in a stylized, blue, cursive script font.

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