

“BLITZ!” Lionel Bart & Joan Maitland

DIRECTOR: Samantha Grace
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Martyn Clements
CHOREOGRAPHER: Julie Allen
DANCE CAPTAIN: Victoria Pemble

This show definitely needs authenticity and involves research to get it right! All of which was obvious in Three Towns' latest production. The setting was minimal, effective and very adaptable, thus leaving plenty of space for the large cast to perform. Lighting and sound were good, plenty of noise and smoke, although there weren't many sirens to indicate the start and end of a raid!

Costumes were authentic, hairstyles were definitely magnificent. Everyone had tried hard to get the right effect. The orchestra was, as always, controlled and effective, giving full support to the company.

The lively reactive chorus responded well and a general air of goodwill and humour, as prevailed in the war years, was well indicated. Songs were extremely enthusiastic, the children were delightful, well rehearsed and disciplined, a credit to the company.

The principals were excellent, all giving strong and effective portrayals. A (usually) glamorous GWYNETH LOFT, looking most matronly as Mrs Blitzein, showed yet another aspect of her varied talents. She was brash, loud-mouthed, absolutely hating her neighbour, the miserable old Alfred Locke, strongly played by PAUL SMITH. Coping with her family and verbally abusing Alfred seemed to be her aim in life! Alfred's friend, Ernie Nearmiss (JACK MARSHALL) was a good foil and he and Alfred gave us many comic moments, with the love-hate relationship between Mrs B and Alfred always evident.

The younger members of the families provided good support. Carol Blitzein, beautifully performed by LUCY RAE TAMULEVICIUS, with a delightful singing voice, was partnered by Georgie Locke (RYAN EVANS) in his first principal musical role. With more acting and singing experience this young man possibly has a good future in amateur musicals. Mrs Blitzein also had a rather “dodgy” son, Harry, well characterised by JASON HUNT, a right troublemaker who fortunately got his come-uppance! DEBRA HARROLD, with a warm convincing performance, was Mrs Josephs, friend of Mrs B.

Numerous minor, named roles were individual and effective, supporting the main characters. The families were nicely mixed with Land Girls. Soldiers, fireman and policemen adding to the general authenticity. Choreography was simple and effective to suit the abilities of the cast.

A well directed and presented performance another success for Three Towns Theatre Company. Well done, everyone.