

ST ALBANS & DISTRICT SCOUTS & GUIDES "3 1st Annual Gang Show"

Producer: David Barker Director: Hermione Clulow MD's: Eleanor Petch  
Choreography: Hermione Clulow, Avril Drew and Claire Turner

Another fine celebration of the talents of St Albans & District members, with some excellent performances by an enthusiastic cast.

I liked the choice of music, various genres and styles made for an interesting evening, with the setting of each number within the scene being imaginative and colourful. If I have any criticism at all, it is that there were too many blackouts for my liking.

'Tonight's the Night' –burst on us. The white tops and trousers, with red sashes made a statement from the outset, and there were some really good effects.

'Up, Up and Away' was a very evocative and well-staged segment. The construction of the plane during the number, the transition of the air balloon etc, were all extremely good in concept and design.

I thoroughly enjoyed the 'All in a Day's Work' section – and felt the lads really had the edge over the girls in this year's show. This section had oomph, enthusiasm and the choreography was well-performed. I was very impressed.

The 'Baking Hot' opening to Act 2 was colourful, and the 'cakes' looked good enough to eat in their very imaginative costumes. The 'Raise Me Up' number was great, not only amusing, but the staging and setting was excellent, and the youngsters coped well with it.

'The Boys are Back in Town' was another example of the lads excelling themselves. I particularly liked 'My Gal' and Peter Martin made an impression. I thought there was good grouping in the 'Guiding Light' scene, and the girls performed well.

I loved the 'Twist in the Tail?' sketch – very funny and the timing of the narrator Maxim Harris was excellent, as was that of the two 'pigs' – and the twist created great amusement in the audience.

'Dance Remixed' gave a number of performers the chance to really enter into the spirit of the dances, and was a good looking section, with again nice grouping and dance moves.

The harmonies in the 'All the Leaves are Brown' number were very well done.

The finale was rousing, and I came away feeling very uplifted and full of admiration for what a dedicated cast, crew and technical support team can achieve.

Hermione Clulow in her first show as Director did well, and Eleanor Petch had a good band in the pit. Costumes were as always very good, as were the sets, they enhanced the action, along with the imaginative lighting, which helped create the feel of the scenes.

*Nova Horley*