

## LOS MUSICAL THEATRE

### GYPSY - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017

This was a vibrant production of this interesting show with a very good cast led by Jane James as Rose, the mother of Louise and June. It's a wonderfully entertaining moralistic story in a way, warning every mother how not to put her daughter on the stage! I guess there are pushy stage mothers out there but Rose must have been the pushiest and Jane's interpretation of this character was absolutely right, using her strong voice to great effect.

Excellent performances from Joanna Thomas as Louise and Lamiah Davey as June who both had their troubles in the rather strange theatrical life they had to lead. Both characters were extremely well described by Joanna and Lamiah, with Guy Pymble giving a great performance as Herbie.

The whole thing started with Uncle Jocko's Kiddies Show with really good performances from all the Child Company and this is where we first met Rose and her two daughters at that stage played by Eleanor Simmonds as Young Louise and Mia Goode as Baby June.

Vaudeville is essentially the genre where the girls show quite a bit of bare flesh and well done to the girls of LOS who were prepared to wear this type of costume which didn't leave a lot to the imagination! Louise Hackett, Kate Long and Mel Stoner are to be congratulated as Tessie Tura, Mazepa and Electra, especially with the song "You Gotta Get a Gimmick!"

All those playing the other parts, along with the Adult Company, gave great value and everyone was well dressed (in some cases, well undressed!) by your excellent wardrobe team. I always make sure that the backstage work is given a good mention as where would we be without the support of the admirable people like wardrobe, set design and construction, the stage crew, props, lighting, sound, call boys, chaperones, those involved in programme design, publicity, front of house and refreshments. The list is endless and all these people ensure that things go smoothly.

There is one other cast member to mention and he is, of course, Chowzy the dog played so well by Alfie!

Thanks to all involved for an entertaining evening and congratulations particularly to Director/Choreographer Thomas Hackett, Musical Director Carl Greenwood with the assistance of Production Assistant Louise Hackett.

I'm so looking forward to "Into the Woods."

Brenda Gower Regional NODA Representative