



About Me - hikaru

this blog creator who made this blog during his medical school has finally graduated. he is now slaving at a public hospital and wonders when is the next time he can watch a play.

he's finally back and up and blogging about plays! he tries.

About Me - Alison

Alison is the quiet contributor of Justwatchlah. He still watches a lot of plays (in fact, almost once a fortnight!) from those high-brow ones to fringe productions, from works by professional companies to school productions, just that he seldom writes reviews nowadays.

He secretly wishes one day he could have a full length work performed.

Due to his insecure nature, there is a need for a caveat - The commentaries written are based on personal opinions after watching a particular production. Correct him if there're any discrepancies, leave a comment if it has been a compelling read.

About Me - Kreeater

This young writer is a JC student who somehow manages to find time within his busy schedule to watch productions. He reads a lot of fiction (too much) but not enough non-fiction. He is also a complete amateur at writing reviews, so please forgive him if he tends to add bits of his personal life into it, or completely misinterprets a production altogether. He promises to improve with each review, provided you give constructive feedback on how to improve :)

About Me - spacefan

spacefan is a burnt out ER physician whose sanity is preserved by her love for film, television, books, music and theatre.

She is addicted to Broadway musicals (Phantom Of The Opera is a personal fave), and finally got to see her favourite actor, Kevin Spacey, in The Bridge Project's Richard III in 2011, after waiting 15 excruciating years to catch him on stage (woohoo!).

She will return to New York for the 3rd time in April 2014, to watch Denzel Washington, James Franco, Chris O'Dowd, Michael C. Hall, Michelle Williams, Alan Cumming and Neil Patrick Harris on Broadway. :)

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April 13, 2014

The Wedding Singer by LASALLE Graduands

by Graduands of BA(Hons) Musical Theatre Programme

In a wayward manner, I feel like I have watched these students grow over the years. Having faithfully attended (all?) the past productions by this bunch of wonderful graduands, I have definitely seen them grow strength to strength. In fact, I am thrilled for them to end their Lasalle Education with such a successful production.

The Wedding Singer was a wonderful choice for the graduands to showcase their talent. Adapted from the 1998 film of the same title, the musical was your typical feel-good romantic comedy. That made the show easy to watch. The 2006 original Broadway version struck a chord deep within me - I still find myself humming the opening number, "Oh, when it's your wedding day; And my music starts to play". So I was particularly pleased when I heard the LASALLE students were going to do it. Of course, the students could not have the same standard of spot-on high-energy dance choreography as the professionals on Broadway. However, what the students lacked in experience, they made up for it (so much more) in their earnest version of the musical.

I would usually give credit to the creative team at the end, but I thought for this production, they were truly the brains and pillars and everything important and crucial for its success. Director Tony Knight was able to hold the plot progression so tightly. Every scene change was engaging and he never gave the audience a chance to switch their minds off. Nikki Snelson was the other genius behind the show. Her choreography for the students was simply amazing. There will always been a main act, but she had planted so many side "stories" in the background of the dances that every number (yes EVERY number) was appealing. Of course kudos to the students for working so hard on the dances but Nikki Snelson's choreography (for me) was the power behind the high energy propelling the show forward.

Kimberly Chan was wonderful. I was totally entranced by her dreamy hopeful little girl image. But when she sings... wow. I was blown over. It was truly heart warming to see that we have such a talented young actress in local theatre. I couldn't ask for more. Now to add her to my personal list of must-watch actresses.

Jordan Prainito started off a tad shaky. I guess it was the opening number of the opening night. So I thought the opening number was somewhat lacklustre. However, he warmed up very quickly and I could see how his charismatic cheeky nature got him the lead role. He may not have very consistent vocals, but he was definitely charming to watch on stage.

Renfred Ng was easy to notice - for being the only Chinese guy and being the jerk of a fiance. I have seen him in a couple of shows now and he has always been able to leave an impression. He has his charms on stage and when he danced, the vibrancy that exuded from his face was alluring. However, his vocals were not as memorable. This probably stemmed from the unnatural accent that he had during the show (and during Gypsy too I remember). I think it is perfectly normal not to have an "angmoh" accent - I thought Kimberly Chan had a good neutral accent - but it becomes particularly striking when there is a pretend-angmoh accent.

Hannah Lucas' vocals were mindblowing. Although her character was not supposed to have a lot of attention, her perky nature definitely caught my attention. Samantha Jean Kwok definitely got the fun role of playing the overly zealous grandmother, and that was very fun to see her add so much life and humour to the character. Chinie Concepcion was morbidly funny during her first appearance.

Unfortunately, I was unable to get a good chance to see everything on stage (as I said, Tony Knight and Nikki Snelson did a wonderful job with all the mini side-story arcs), but I am sure the rest of the students in the ensemble worked

About JustWatchLah

Started in March 2009, JustWatchLah aims to provide an informal colloquial platform for academically-unqualified theater lovers to air their views.

JustWatchLah - as its name suggests - hopes to encourage a healthy non-judgmental theater-going crowd, where there will be less cynicism, less fault-finding and really more appreciation for the efforts of the production team. In other words, we hope everyone can go to a show and just watch lah!

You can contact the blog owner at hikaru@justwatchlah.com

Hot Links

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Justwatchlah Scoring

5/5: Die die must watch!
 4.5/5: I'm only bitching for the sake of bitching, otherwise perfect.
 4/5: An excellent piece of work, some minor things to lament.
 3.5/5: A great piece of work, a couple of loose ends not tied.
 3/5: A lot of unhappiness, but generally still enjoyable.
 2.5/5: Passable, be glad it's not any worse.
 2/5: A missing edge required to pass.
 1/5: Watch a movie. It's cheaper.
 0/5: What show?

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4/14/2014

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Just Watch Lah: The Wedding Singer by LASALLE Graduands

very hard too. Although I am unable to name one by one, as a whole they definitely left a good impression.

I really look forward to the next production by the subsequent batches of students. I think for a student production, Lasalle has definitely proven to be heads and shoulders above the other schools. I will even go out on a limb and say that the production standard is better than most professional local companies.

Well done.

P.s. I really thought this show was a good choice. It was something closer to the students' age than their last attempt at the revival of Gypsy. Patti LuPone - the oldest Mama Rose - was almost 60 when she did the show! How could our young students understand the conflicts/turmoils of Mama Rose?

posted by [hikaru](#) at 11:11 PM

Response? Agree (0) Neutral (0) Disagree (0)

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