

THRAPSTON PLAZA OPERA

" AIDA "

Directing Producer : Anne Parkes

Musical Director : Vincent Davy

Choreographer : Becky Hawksbee

Reviewed by Caroline Jervis (NODA East Midlands District 7 Representative) on Saturday
16th February 2013

SHOW REPORT

Thank you to Thrapston Plaza Opera for inviting me to come and review " Aida ", it was however, with considerable trepidation, as I had never seen live opera before ! but what a treat was in store for me, I think this was the most exciting piece of theatre I have ever seen. I was worried when I realised that there was no back stage and the performers all had to enter and exit through the auditorium, but actually, this worked really well, it greatly enhanced the production, and made the audience feel like part of the action.

Anne Parkes has brilliantly directed " Aida ", the performers were all well cast and well rehearsed and the opera flowed with good pace and ease, so well done to Anne for achieving this.

How lovely to see a full orchestra for this production, they were expertly directed by the musical director, Vincent Davy, the musicians gave great support to the actors in creating the right mood throughout the opera; I am full of admiration for Vincent and his orchestra, congratulations to you all.

Choreographer, Becky Hawksbee did an excellent job too, especially with the confines of space, there were good routines with a nice Egyptian flavour to them.

The children taking part in the opera were delightful and looked to be loving the experience, they too were well rehearsed and played an important role in " Aida ".

It would be unfair for me to single out any of the actors as they were all amazing, each one acted out their role with confidence and sincerity, however, Caroline Trutz and Mark Ellse (Aida and Radames) gave remarkable performances, there was a wonderful chemistry between them and their duet at the end when they were entombed, was absolutely beautiful! Well done to all the cast, both principals and chorus, the quality of all your vocals was incredible and a joy to listen to.

Technically this production was excellent. The scenery was well made by the set designer and well executed by the stage manager and her crew. The props were all well made and functional. The lighting and sound was very good too. The costumes were spectacular, and greatly enhanced the opera, well done to the designer, Diana Charles and her wardrobe team for this.

Overall this was a truly exceptional production, it was exciting, colourful and very professional. Congratulations to the entire company.

Thank you Thrapston Plaza Opera for your hospitality and for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Caroline Jervis - NODA District 7