



musicals & opera



2003



Cabaret (page 107)

Drams

Cast Ken Christie (Herr Schultz); James Dickson (Clifford Bradshaw); Dorothy Johnstone (Fraulein Rost) John Lally (Ernst Ludwig); Norma Kinnear (Emcee); Doreen McGilivray (Fraulein Schneider); Gabrielle Pavone (Sally Bowles)

Musical Director Simon Hanson
Choreographer/Co-Director Jill Cruickshank

Lighting Director Michael Hume

Sound Director Iain McIntosh

Producers Norma and Kenny Kinnear

Director Colin Peter

Venue St Oswald's Hall (Fringe Venue 180)

Address Montpelier Park

Reviewer Jonas Green

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Tempo aspires to be one of the best of Edinburgh's amateur musical companies, and they are normally successful. While this is a passable Fringe production, I feel the company should be judged on their aspirations. The first-night audience seemed happy enough, but at the interval I was ready to declare it well below Tempo's usual standard. The second half largely retrieves things with more drama and some inventive production ideas, but they do need to sharpen up part one.

One unqualified success throughout is Norma Kinnear as an unexpected female Emcee, traditionally a very camp male role. It's hard to tell what gender she's meant to be (shades of the film *Victor Victoria*) but she makes it work superbly. Doreen McGilivray acts to perfection in the older-German-lady part. Gabrielle Pavone as Sally Bowles is not always consistent but she gives a show-stopping rendition of the title number.

Cabaret

For the rest of the time this production is often struggling against an unfamiliar venue which makes for clunky scene changes, and an under-produced first half. At that stage, insufficient dramatic relationship was established between the domestic scenes - which are cramped by being played on a half set - and the raunchy goings-on at the Kit-Kat Club, representing the decadence of pre-war German culture.

The musical side is predictably perfect, the choreography is competent, and the shock ending works brilliantly. Venue, lighting, and set are good. This is a potentially a quality show which should improve.

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Run: 17 - 23 August at 19:40

For more information about Tempo Musical Productions go to www.tempo.org.uk