

(A-C) 4 out of 25

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 = Unwatchable

Page number refers to the Fringe programme

Annie (Page 120)**Drams** 0**Presented by** Tempo Musical Productions**Cast** Rebecca Stenhouse (Annie); Norma Kinnear (Miss Hannigan); Gordon Murray (Bundles McCluskey/Franklin D. Roosevelt); Lesley Rooney (Grace Farrell); Donald Budge (Oliver 'Daddy' Warbucks); Carl W. Watt (Rooster Hannigan); Gabrielle Pavone (Lily St. Regis); and Scruffy the Dog (Sandy)**Music** Charles Strouse**Lyrics** Martin Charnin**Book** Thomas Meehan**Musicians** Rob Ironside (reeds); Graeme Williamson (trumpet); Andy Barker (trombone); Alexa Mannerings and Robert Dick (violins); Kenny Kinnear (bass); Simon Hanson (keyboards and programming)**Musical Director** Simon Hanson**Producers** Norma and Kenny Kinnear**Director** Colin Peter**Youth Director** Malcolm Burnett**Choreographer** David Paris**Youth Choreographer** Lynne McPherson**Venue** St Oswald's Hall (Venue 180)**Address** Montpelier Park**Reviewer** Nick Scott**Edinburgh Fringe 2004**[Fringe homepage](#)[Theatre](#)[Music](#)[Musicals & Opera](#)[Dance & Physical Theatre](#)[Comedy](#)[Perrier Comedy Awards](#)[Children's shows](#)[Top fringe venues](#)[Theatre Preview](#)**EIF**[Reviews & previews](#)**Jazz and Blues Festival**[Reviews](#)[Preview](#)**Edinburgh Film Festival 2004**[Reviews, daily diary, and previews](#)[Bulletin boards](#)**Useful Links**[Festival sites](#)

There is an old adage in the theatrical profession which states: "Never act with kids or animals" - a sure recipe for disaster. If this is the case, then Tempo Musical Productions' latest Fringe presentation - the "family" musical, Annie - knocks that philosophy firmly on the head!

The Edinburgh-based company has assembled a supremely talented cast; and with striking sets, superb choreography, outstanding production routines and a "live" orchestra as well - quite frankly, they put some professional companies to shame! I am reluctant to use the word "amateur" when referring to this company - because from the outset, they just simply knock you out with their sheer professionalism.

The producers are husband and wife team, Norma and Kenny Kinnear. Both take part in the show as well - as a principal performer and musician, respectively. But it is Norma Kinnear, in the role of the constantly inebriated Matron of the Orphanage - the thoroughly nasty Miss Hannigan - who steals the show. With impeccable timing, Ms Kinnear extracted every ounce of comedy; and with the addition of her "partners in crime" - in the form of her "jail-bird" brother, Rooster (Carl W. Watt) and his girl, Lily St. Regis (Gabrielle Pavone) - they made a formidable trio.

There were slick and impressive ensemble numbers too - especially the opening of Act 2 (*You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile*) and NYC (set in the streets of New York City) featuring a strikingly imposing Oliver 'Daddy' Warbucks, played by Donald Budge.

Talented Rebecca Stenhouse, in the title-role of Annie, gave a thoroughly polished performance throughout; and even Sandy (played by Scruffy the Dog), was every inch a professional!

There was not one glum face, as the large audience spilled out into Montpelier Park after the show. Without a doubt, Tempo Musical Productions has to be one of the best local groups around.

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Run 17 - 21 August (19.25); 21 August (14.25)