

SUTCo Anonymous Review

Made in Dagenham is a must-see. If you were looking for a recommendation, then this is it. Directed by Jonathan Payne, SUPAS has brought us an upbeat, uplifting and overall hilarious show. Made in Dagenham tells the true story of the 1968 Ford strikes, where the female workers of Ford Dagenham took action for equal pay for equal work, and subsequently became the face of something far greater. Megan Armson delivered a standout performance as Rita O'Grady, and Ryan Footitt matched this in equal measure as her loveable, if not forgetful, husband. Their singing performances were just as wonderful as their acting, and I look forward to seeing them in more shows to come. The whole cast were incredibly talented, but Kieran Jenkins, Nathan Sloane and Alice Robertson deserve credit for their portrayals of a bumbling prime minister, a villain you love to hate, and the sassy, outspoken Beryl: their comedic timing was flawless, and the audience reaction to their scenes spoke volumes.

It was clear how hard the entire company had worked, creating slick dance sequences crafted by choreographers Lana Pitcher and Lily Backler, and songs harmonized to perfection by Maria MacAninch. Nick Young's musical direction of the incredibly talented live band brought the show to life, and though at times mic issues led to the inability to hear the cast over the music, it is clear that these were technical teething issues. Connor Smith's team created a stage which functioned as a factory, offices, living rooms, kitchens, dance halls-it's clear that set designer Tom Robbins had a lot of fun creating the stage and made full use of the drama studio's space. The lighting design by Charlotte Robertson matched each moment nicely, adding to the overall atmosphere of each scene, though occasionally the use of the lights affixed to the stage blinded the audience a little too well.

The costume team of Molly Wyatt and Kate Alhadeff had the task of fitting out the cast in 60s garb, not just with one costume each, but multiple changes. They rose to the task and also had the genius idea of providing the stage crew with overalls to make them appear to be factory workers alongside the cast, a touch which I really enjoyed.

Overall, despite a couple of mild technical issues which can only be expected from live theatre, Made in Dagenham was a wonderful evening where I laughed and cried, but ultimately left feeling incredibly uplifted and proud of a group of women I wish I'd heard about sooner.