

SUTCo Anonymous Review 1

So it came round to me to do the whole “secret reviewer” thing for the latest SUPAS production *Into The Woods*, originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine. The play roughly follows 3 popular fairy tales; Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Cinderella, with a very cute fairy tale bakery family thrown in. These 3 stories mix, meet and mingle and eventually become mangled.

As a critic, this play has presented me with quite a large problem, there’s nothing to critique. *All* singing performances were outstanding. I feel special mention in particular should go to Katie Kelson (Cinderella), whose singing and acting abilities were truly captivating. Emma Dorricott (Baker’s wife), who not only showed great singing but also fantastic comic timing and employed physical comedy to hilarious results. Will Leggetter (Baker), who delivered what I think was the most powerful song of the night with his part in it takes to. Alice Preece (Witch), who I think overall delivered the strongest emotional delivery throughout the play. Other special mentions I feel should go to Lawrence O’Brien as Cinderella’s Prince and Wolf, and Matthew Claypole as Rapunzel’s Prince. I honestly don’t think I’ve seen 2 people have such brilliant comic chemistry on stage. Alone, the two were funny, but when they were combined, they truly reached another level entirely. I was howling to the great annoyance of the person next to me who left in the intermission and never came back (possibly something to do with my constant laughing).

I think the director, Megan Roberts, has done a truly fantastic job with this performance, her love for the play shows very strongly, and her ability to work with the actors I think speaks for itself. Of course, this review would not be complete without mention of the amazing music that went into the performance. It was absolutely perfect and was personally my favourite part. The production of the play is absolutely excellent and you can tell that the production manager, Alexandra Parker, has worked incredibly hard to work with the funds to make the play look so professional, and I think this should really be credited.

The most obvious way that the production value can be seen is in the costumes. Costume designers Yagmur Adalier and Natalia Greave did a wonderful and hugely professional looking job on the costumes. Both the set, lighting, and sound design, (Nathan Sloane, Fred Rentch, and Jack Goodison) are exceptional; the set looked fantastic, especially the tower. The lighting looked great, and seemed very technical, and the mixing of the band is a credit to the sound engineer who, to the best of my knowledge, was without fault in combining the sound of every instrument perfectly. Overall, the show did exactly what it said on the tin. It was a straightforward, no-nonsense musical following a great story, it made you laugh and think in all the right places. Ultimately, it was very good and I highly recommend this musical to any and all, so long as you like musicals, have a basic grounding in the principles of humour, and enjoy having a smile upon your face.