**Wadhurst Dramatic Club**

**‘Showtime’ – a musical compilation**

**Wadhurst Commemoration Hall**

**Saturday Matinee 25th October 2014**

**Directors: Paul Desrosiers and Anneka Bones**

**Choreographer: Anneka Bones**

**Musical Director: Jane Spurr**

A challenging three Act compilation with excerpts from West Side Story, Oliver and Les Miserables demonstrating the talent of 52 members of the Club in a slick, exciting, well rehearsed afternoon’s entertainment. And how very good to see and hear so many young men. Singing was delivered with clarity and exceptionally strong solo voices.

**FRONT OF HOUSE:** The usual warm Wadhurst welcome from the F of H team, afternoon refreshments organised by the **Wadhurst Warriors,** with the sweet shop doing a great trade together with interval ice cream. Computer tickets at the ready we found our seats together with a good crowd of supporters.

**MUSIC:** I don’t know the secret of **Jane Spurr’s** unorthodox approach but she certainly attained a polished result with singing of quality and good clarity. She led on the piano and was supported by **Sue Ellis** on Flute and regular **David Fenner** in charge of percussion being narrowly missed by flying objects off the stage! Some backing tracks were also used with effective results.

**PROGRAMME/PUBLICITY: Nick Dann** of Encompass Design designed the poster and programme – an A5 white/yellow on black which looked most striking.

**SCENERY: Colin** and **Nance Hand** are the treasures who created three wonderful backdrops - NY ghetto, London back street with flying washing and two panels with the French flags all three most professionally painted. The central rostrum was erected down the middle isle extending the stage and was used to maximum effect with the performers looking and sounding quite comfortable.

**COSTUME**: **Jill Haskell** together with **Penny Bones** costumed the whole cast in blacks of some sort or other with neat finishing touches in the hair and make up department from **Marianne Johnson**, **Wendy Healy**, **Sasha Jenner** and other members of the cast.

**SOUND/LIGHTING:** **Peter** and **John Bush** together with **Martin Steadman** again prepared excellent sound and lighting.

**THE PRODUCTION: Paul** and **Anneka** had a dream which came true and with determination and hard work they achieved a high standard of performance – all members gave 110% and the question now is follow that! Three tough titles to put over. West Side Story opened with a strong precision dance routine from the young men and **Anneka**. **Stephanie Gabbitas** sang the Maria part beautifully with **Paul** a most convincing Tony. The street fight sequence was well managed and realistic. **Russ Kirton** who will be directing Puss in Boots kept command of the youngsters teaching them to ‘Pick a Pocket or Two’ from Oliver. They were well drilled and obviously enjoyed themselves. Little **M J** was the afternoon Oliver, with **Kaitlyn Johnson** Artful Dodger with **Catherine Perks** giving a first class rendition of ‘He Needs Me’ as Nancy supported by **Vicky Sedgwick** asNancy’s friend Bet. Les Mis excerpts were very strong again with precision movement and vocals. **Nick Jeal** and **Jan Lynam** led in great style the full ensemble with ‘Master of the House’ with a moving ‘Castle on a Cloud’ from **Eloise Quitmann**. Maturing **Tom Snee** gave a superb delivery as Jean Valjean. I haven’t mentioned everybody by name but high praise must go to you all for this immense team effort.

An elderly resident come up to me at the end to say how very proud she was of her Village and I think that goes for all of us attending a spectacular Showtime. To you all, keep up the good work and thank you for letting me be part of it.

A précis of this review will appear on the NODA website shortly.

**Anne Lawson**

**Regional Representative**

**NODA SE**

**District 3**