

Opera in the Sticks

The Myth of Opera

So you thought opera was about large ladies and gentlemen in implausible costumes bellowing at one another, in a foreign language, watched by an audience dressed up to the nines who were able to afford high ticket prices?

La Boheme Arrives

Well it wasn't like that at all last month when "La Boheme" was performed in the New Beaconsfield Hall in Shipton. The Scottish Opera Touring Company, directed by Caroline Sharman, dispelled all those myths. Singing a witty and sparkling English translation, in a contemporary setting, this young company had the audience alternately laughing and crying as the story of love, misunderstanding and loss was told.

Not For Wimps!

And if you think that performing is for wimps you should have seen the stage crew of only four people who arrived in the morning and by late afternoon had built a complete set and made all the adjustments needed to fit on our stage; put up lights; connected up the sound equipment; sorted out the costumes and props and then took it all down again by midnight, packed it in the vans and prepared to set it all up in Didcot the next day. Oh - they also had to run the technical side of the show and perform small parts.



Rave Reviews

Here are just a few of the reactions:

"Wonderful! Great to have such a talented, professional company in such an intimate setting – a real privilege to be so close to the action. A good choice of opera for a small venue. Super production accessible and entertaining."

"My first taste of real opera. I found it quite

amazing. A really wonderful experience – fabulous singing, very professional – great production."

"Please do it again. It would be a great way to introduce opera to a younger (school age) audience."

"We came not knowing what to expect and left after a most rewarding and exhilarating evening."

"The production was a triumph for all the cast and the crew. Director Caroline Sharman brought us a perfect distillation of this grand opera. There was not a dull moment and all the singing was superb. Thank you for bringing the magic of Glyndebourne to our village hall."

Next time we have a musical production why not give it a whirl? You never know- you might really enjoy it!

Alice Burns