

ROSE BOWL ADJUDICATION

Name of Company: **GLASTONBURY & STREET MUSICAL COMEDY SOCIETY**

Name of Production: **'THE ADDAMS FAMILY'**

Venue: The Strode Theatre, Street

Date: 12th April, 2019

Adjudicator: Ross Harvey

Presentation

Entering the auditorium to themed music (upbeat rather than creepy) the stage was lit with a pre-set of blue wash on a gauze with a model of The Addams residence centre stage – ghostly shapes were projected on the curtain and as the overture played the house rose and whirled in front of us and the gloved hand of Thing beckoned to the buzzing and capacity audience to enter the eerily strange world of The Addams Family.

The set was abstract, leaning skyscrapers and a large central moon really simple and effective. Really liked the large 'A' on wheels that would split to represent an entrance or exit – this would be pulled and pushed by the superb 'Ancestors' that frequented virtually all of the scenes. Immediate impressions of the ancestors and the Family were positive - costumes looked terrific – the family exactly how they have to be, Gomez dapper, Morticia glamorous, Fester dark eyed and weird. The Ancestors all dusty and pale, each with a different identity.

The six strong makeup team led by Emma Czelusta must have put in a good few hours on this show as every character living and deceased looked amazing. Very impressive.

Lighting design by Chris Sealy, assisted by Amelia Chinnock Schumann and Abbie Phillips was of a high standard. Nice use of LED's and rope lights to highlight outlines – very effective and consistently sharply cued. Occasional wandering follow spots were a distraction, but the overall effect was imaginative and atmospheric.

This is a company that can handle the big shows and this was clear from the first number, When You're an Addams – energy – pace right from the off. The principals established themselves quickly Gomez, Morticia leading from the front.

The music was under the direction of Lynne Merrifield and played by a twelve-piece orchestra was terrific – lots of styles and superbly delivered. As you'd expect from an award winning and vastly experienced choreographer and director, Andrew Wright shaped the evening superbly. Never letting the pace drop or the story to be lost – the big numbers were splendid and the detailed choreography (assisted by Anna Gifford) encompassing ballet, a tango and a Charleston – all hit the mark. The Umbrella Dance for The Moon and Me was really good.

Props were great too – loved the dining table conversion from coffins, the rack on which Pugsley squealed with delight. The onstage transitions worked seamlessly, and the tech cueing was sharp.

With the cast mic'd and a thirteen-piece orchestra, sound design and sound engineering was a big task - Dan Hobbs and Lewis Packham did a great job. The balance was good – the music never swamping the vocals and the vocals clear and natural.

Direction by Andrew Wright

Very accomplished direction and choreography. The story kept moving, nice sense of comedy, really liked the use of the Ancestors throughout – just draping the set and being present in the scenes, really added to the piece and enhanced the principals dialogue.

Morticia played by Jess Russell

Terrific leading lady performance – the character detail, the singing, the dancing. Totally believable marriage to Gomez and a nice way with the aside.

Gomez played by Matthew Maisey

Top notch performance here. A leading man from the start – nice sense of relationship with the audience and the family. Great accent too – consistent – really liked the snappy delivery of the gag lines. Well delivered songs and a natty tango-ist. Totally believed the adoration of Mrs A. Stand out performance.

Wednesday played by Lydia Stobie-Owen

Captured the stropky teenager superbly. Punchy lines and a good sense of comic timing - really enjoyed the strong singing. This was a very solid performance.

Uncle Fester played by Matt Turner

Great characterisation – difficult when this guy is so well known – but you succeeded. Weird but with warmth – the audience really enjoyed your performance. The Moon and Me was a highlight. You're a real song and dance man!

Pugsley played by Dougal Bradwell

Good performance here. The annoying younger brother with the odd slant. Grew in confidence as the show progressed. Nice sense of comedy and really brought this character to life. Good job.

Grandma played by Judi Neale

Wild haired and wonderfully manic. A great characterisation and was hugely enjoyed by the audience.

Lurch played by Ross Baker

Looked so ominous throughout – consistent and solid character. The shoes were great – gave you presence which you built upon as the evening progressed. Loved the Scooby Doo chat moment and the dance moves at the end went down really well.

Mal Beineke played by Dave Bonser

Nicely observed and appropriately loathable characterisation. Delivered your well. Accent wandered sometimes but solid performance.

Lucas Beineke played by James Moore

Great energy and youthful verve saw you through the show. Couple this with good singing performance and you looked and sounded like the all-American boy. Good

job.

Alice Beineke played by Elspeth Salmon

Looked confident in the part – nice flair for comedy and drunk acting.... Good solid performance and looked like an experienced performer.

The Ancestors

In many ways you were the stars of the show. A real pleasure to see the song and dance numbers enhanced by your presence and talent. Loved the way you were very much in the scene – observing, focussed, communicating with us, the audience. The routines were terrific. Loved the individual characters too – very valuable asset to this production. Well played all.

This was an excellent evening's entertainment and you delivered a high standard of performance that would challenge a professional production. There was so much to enjoy. Thanks for the hospitality and the welcome! RH