

Dir: Helen Rushton M.D: Lynne Caygill and Simon Carter Choreog: Hollie Da' Bell

Review by Graham Liverton

Centre Stage CATS The Pavilion Theatre Exmouth Youth Group Production 26th October 2012 Helen Rushton Director As always in these productions the scenery and clever lighting along with the overture from a very fine orchestra created a great atmosphere. I have grown to expect a lot from this group as they have performed some very good shows indeed, but in my view this will take some beating. The singing and dancing was up to there with the best of professional shows, these very young people showed so much maturity for their age. It was obvious that some intense work had been put in by the cast and their directors over the months and this dedication showed in their skill, confidence and infectious enjoyment in their various roles The Tap dance was awe inspiring. To sing and dance as they did without loss of energy and verve was enviable. Rum Tum Tugger had the character spot on, his confident walk and his impressive costume plus the quality of his singing added to his stage presence and the primacy of his role. Grizabella. What can I say? I thought for a second or two , when she sang "Memories" it was recorded. The quality, strength and maturity of her voice was astounding in a thirteen year old. This was her first show with Centre Stage and if this performance sets the standard she is likely to go a long way on the stage. Asparagus was very convincing as an old cat; he kept the shaking up continually throughout his appearances, no easy thing to do especially when you are singing at the same time. Another mature performance for someone who is also only thirteen. It is always invidious to mention particular characters and in this show there were so many excellent portrayals, not all of whom can be mentioned in a short report, but all worked together so well and each one really entered in to the personality of the role they were playing. The Train scene, in particular, was very cleverly done and a real hit. The various appearances of "cats" in the auditorium added to the characterisations and were greatly appreciated by the audience. The Choreographer should be congratulated on a fantastic job, Also the Musical Directors on dealing brilliantly with a splendid but very demanding score and an Orchestra that had a great sound. The Costumes were colourful and well done, complete with fantastic wigs, enabling the actors to move so well within their characters .The lighting was very ingeniously done. The Director Helen Rushton should be justly proud of her direction, giving everyone of the cast a real chance to shine and giving them the confidence to do it This was an evening that I and I imagine every other member of the audiences will remember for a long time. To sum up, Centre Stages performance of "Cats" was sheer exuberant talent all the way.