



SERVING AMATEUR THEATRE SINCE 1899

National President

Mrs Geraldine Branton

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Mark Worsley
Chairman
Centre Stage

Dear Mark,

Centre Stage “BEAUTY and the BEAST”

Thank you for inviting me to see the above production, which Denis and I thoroughly enjoyed last night, Tuesday and I send heartiest congratulations to every member of your talented group. One can easily forget the youthful ages of principals, when presented with such mature and professional performances as we saw last night and along with the cast, the Director, MD, Choreographer and whole Production Team must take a bow for producing such an impressive support group.

Casting was impeccable with Ruth Emerson, a delightful Belle singing and dancing effortlessly into our hearts and gradually humanising the Beast – a most sympathetically played character by Tom Caygill. Well done to “father” Maurice, the macho character of Gaston, whom we all love to hate and his amusingly agile side-kick, Lefou. However, it is the Disney characters who come to life, that causes such appeal and we were not disappointed with the antics of Lumiere, Cogsworth, Babette, Madame de La Grande Bouche and of course, Mrs Potts and her lovely Chip as well as the rest of the fully supporting cast. At this stage I must highly commend the tremendous achievement of Sue Bonnett who designed and made all the wonderful costumes we saw in the production – worthy of an Oscar I should think! The full cast reached an impressive standard of performance and surely credit is due in no small measure to the unstinting work of your Director, making her debut, MD “Auntie” Lynne who produced such great vocal moments and your Choreographer Hollie, whose imaginative dancing utilised the youthful energy and enthusiasm to such great effect in the company numbers.

It was a joy for me, as ever, to see everyone on stage afterwards and to congratulate you on your performance. You can surely tell how you were received by the audience but I personally thank you for playing in such a truthful and honest way that we retained our love and enchantment of the well-loved story. Thank you Centre Stage, and for the usual warm welcome and generous hospitality. Enjoy the rest of your run and your 40th Anniversary Year.

With kind regards,

Gerry

Geraldine Branton
NODA President

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Patron: The Lord Lloyd-Webber

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