

Set in 1905 in the small village of Anatevka, Fiddler on the Roof, is full of emotion and history to which ROS did an absolute credit. The musical, book by Joseph Stein and music and lyrics by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick respectively, depicts the changes brought on by the Russian Revolution and how these affect a poor Jewish man Tevye and the tradition that he and his village try to hold on to.

Played by Stephen Foster, Tevye leads the piece with a lot of time alone on stage talking to God, with which Stephen handled with ease. He guided the audience through the musical believable portraying his conflict to the changes happening to his family and tradition. Sharon Liff, playing his wife Golde, is a remarkable talent. Her beautiful singing brought strong emotion and delicacy to her otherwise strong character. The two played well opposite each other.

The 5 daughters (Tanya Ackleyon, Rhea Woodward, Sophie Dignam, Jesse-Mary Edmonson and Merryn Pearse) were all strong in their portrayal of their respective characters, each clear in their lines and faultless in their acting. Rhea Woodward singing 'Far From The Home I Love' was particularly moving.

It is such a pleasure to have a cast with young children that a fully involved in the piece and whom are acting their socks off the entire time!

With such a large cast it is impossible to mention everyone however the chorus was strong in their harmonies and acting, 'The Dream' was a particular shining moment for them.

I would be amiss to not mention the strength of the male cast as a collective, whilst it seems societies still have to struggle for men in their productions, it was lovely to see such a vast collective, all strong in their own talents. Alfie Murray in particular as the revolutionary teacher Perchik was strong in voice and particularly stood out in the dance numbers. The lovely Bob Drywood lead the orchestra firmly but delicately. In a theatre where the orchestra can easily drown out the stage, they were complimentary and added to the emotion of the piece.

The set by Brian Booker and Tim Baker was effective without taking over the stage. Stage Manager Rachel Revell lead her team in seamless transitions and Patti Bowling provided character and period fitting costumes.

Director and choreographer Jacquie Walker-Kemp took on a challenging show with a large cast and made the most of every moment, well done to you! I can only imagine it got better and better every night.

Rob Gore

District 6 – NODA Rep