



**Group: Starburst**  
**Show: Back to the 80s**  
**Venue: Samuel Cody School, Farnborough**  
**Date: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014**  
**Director: Peter Woodford    Producer: Shaun Garrett**  
**Choreographer: Liz Woodford    Musical Director: Paul Darrah**

**Back to the 80s** tells the story of the 1989 graduating class of William Ocean High. The narrator, Corey Palmer Snr now in 2001 introduces and provides insight into the characters. The story revolves around the election of the senior class president, the activities during the year and the presentation of a concert to parents. The maths teacher and the English teacher become an item but he discovers she has appeared as a 'centrefold' in the past. The various characters make and break new relationships and many watch whilst others misbehave. During the final prom the older Corey relates where everyone is now and the whole show concludes with everyone singing "I've had the time of my life".

**Front of House:** There is always a great buzz around the front of house with relatives and friends eagerly anticipating the show. All the facilities are well organised.

**Theatre Ambience:** The school hall was well laid out for maximum view. The raked seating is a distinct advantage. Again the buzz from relatives and friends is part of the enjoyment.

**The Programme:** The A4 sized programme with 20 pages contains many interesting articles, fascinating pen portraits and relevant information about both the show and the charity Starburst. The article about the creation of the car was fascinating. The NODA crest and the words Affiliated to the..... were not in the programme but a reference to their recent Accolade of Excellence had a prominent place on the front cover.

**Scenery/Set/Props:** The opening went straight onto the full stage with tiered seating/steps across the back. Stage right on the apron was set with some desks and chairs for a classroom. The show is so action packed that props are kept to a minimum. The production team were innovative in their staging utilising the space very effectively.

**Lighting & Sound:** The clever lighting plot was very effectively managed and the cast managed to get into the spotlights as required. Sincere congratulations to those managing the sound levels. The technology was extremely well controlled to ensure those who needed to be heard were clearly audible which enabled the audience to appreciate the quality of the singing.

**Music:** The arrangement of the music and its execution by the band was excellent maintaining the fine balance between themselves and the singers.

**Wardrobe & Make-Up:** Costumes were absolutely superb. The usual attention to detail was very evident. The number of changes and variety of costumes are to be highly commended.

**The Production:** It makes me exhausted just thinking about this production. The cast, crew and musicians were on the go throughout the show. The enthusiasm and high level of performance was maintained even in the smallest of moves. The choreography was delightfully creative – just seeing the involvement of each and every member of the cast is a treat. High praise to everyone involved in this first-class performance.

**Kay Rowan - District 14 Regional Representative**