

Group: Starburst
Show: Boogie-Nights – the 70's Musical
Venue: St Nicholas School, Church Crookham
Date: Friday 22nd July 2011



Directors: Pete Woodford
Musical Director: Andy Milburn
Choreographer: Liz Woodford

Boogie-Nights the 70's Musical Do you remember where you were the night Elvis died? Well, tonight's the night.

It's the night that the King, Elvis Presley, died and Roddy O'Neill is busy dreaming of life as a rock star! Debs, his girlfriend, has her own thoughts... basically that Roddy's a selfish, arrogant, horrible, unfeeling, rude, heartless pig! But the truth is that Roddy is in love with Debs, and Debs is in love with Roddy, but Debs knows that her Roddy has more than a roving eye! Through all their tears and laughter - can they both find what they are truly searching for?

Packed with all the greatest Disco classics Boogie Nights-The Musical involved the audience with The Bump and The Hustle, and funk along to the grooviest chart topping hits like 'You Sexy Thing', 'Y.M.C.A.', 'I Will Survive', 'In The Navy', 'Can You Feel The Force', 'I Love To Love', 'Boogie Wonderland' and many many more.....!!

Front of House: A very warm welcome from director Gary Phillips, later joined by his fellow director, Daniel Woodhouse and choreographer Liz Woodford. The photographs of previous shows enhanced the vestibule.

Theatre Ambience: The newly built performing arts centre, the Pritchard Hall, was a first class venue creating a professional theatre atmosphere.

The Programme: An 28 page A4 programme was very well designed, providing good information with an opening statement of the purposes of Starburst as a charity raising funds to help local children with disabilities and special needs. The director's notes set a vibrant tone which was reflected throughout. The increased size of programme and thus the size of print made the programme very easy to read. Due credit was given to actors and crew alike emphasising the importance of all aspects of the production.

Scenery/Set: The set was designed and constructed on several levels and made good use of curtain back drops. The 'rooms' created by furniture and lighting were very effective.

Make Up: The make-up was simple but effective. Hair styles were well thought out.

Costumes & Properties: A significant amount of effort had gone into sourcing costumes and props of the period from the boots through to the chopper bikes.

Lighting & Sound: The lighting effects were well controlled however the sound levels were a little erratic.

The Production: In all areas of the production the calibre of all those involved shone through. The audience were so spell bound throughout the performance that the time sped by. The quality of the choreography was first class and the performance was a study in movement throughout. A great deal of work had gone into sourcing authentic costumes particularly the shoes and boots which were particularly appreciated by those in the audience who remembered the 70's. The very fast and high-pitched delivery of some of the lines made following the action difficult at times. This did not help the sound engineers.

The very talented and enthusiastic cast and crew created a true 70's atmosphere and gave the audience a thoroughly memorable evening.

Thank you for inviting me and for your hospitality and I look forward to Sleeping Beauty.

A short review will appear in due course in Amateur Stage and on the NODA website.

Kay Rowan
District 14 Regional Representative