

**Review: Les Misérables**

**By Dulcie Harrison**

***Les Misérables* at Theatre Royal Plymouth**

Will you join in the crusade..? The musical phenomenon returns to Plymouth, and it truly is the unmissable production of the year!

An incredible three hour mesmerising experience of the sensational tour production takes you on a rollercoaster of emotions throughout, in a way only live theatre truly can. It's a guarantee you'll be singing the songs for days after which of course is one of the essential musical theatre experiences.

The exceptionally spectacular set and show design by Matt Kinley makes it easy to see why his creative input enchants auditoriums across the UK and Ireland. Along with the quick, slick movement of the huge set, it almost feels cinematic. Revolving buildings and projected scenery inspired by the paintings of Victor Hugo, add deep layers of delight to draw us further and further in. These are some of the most impressive set designs I have ever seen on a stage and it is simply mind-blowing to experience.

It all comes together with a top-notch cast. Both Will Barratt as Valjean and Nic Greenshields as Javert bring power to their performances. The vulnerability of Rachelle Ann Go as Fantine and desperation of Nathania Ong's Eponine are both so captivating, while the heartwarming and adoring young love of Cosette and Marius are played by Paige Blankson and Will Callan who bring a sweet atmosphere of romance to the raw emotion of the evening. Ian Hughes and Helen Walsh play the mischievous roles of the Thénardiens and have the comedy of the inn-keepers timed to perfection. We all know the beloved songs from the show and it would surely have to take some mighty powerful performers to be able to pull off such magical and compelling performances every night, and this cast perfectly delivers this in every performance!

It is outstanding in almost every way. An astonishing stage production that should be seen by all again and again. Finishing every show with thunderous applause and cheers that see the whole auditorium on its feet.

*Les Mis* is a must-see for everyone, so grab your tickets while it's here in Plymouth until June 11th!



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