

Review: Singin' In The Rain

By Dulcie Harrison

***Singin' In The Rain* at Theatre Royal Plymouth**

In the middle of a dry hot summer, what better musical to hit the Theatre Royal Plymouth than *Singin' In The Rain*! The show stays true to film, with all the iconic songs such as 'Good Morning', 'Make 'Em Laugh' and 'Lucky Star' and all the dance movements that the great Gene Kelly perfected for the world's entertainment. It truly is spectacular from beginning to end.

The glamour of the Hollywood era bursts onto the stage with an explosion of colour against the enormous backdrop. The hustle and bustle of the new age of cinema is the undercurrent throughout the show as the golden age of film moves its way into the "talkies". As the show evolves, it is intertwined beautifully with a love story between Don and Kathy and the real boots of humour interjected by Cosmo and Line – the star of the silent movies but unable to fully transcend to the talkies with as much grace that gave her a career in the silent films.

The dance scenes are true to the film with every skilled cast member filling the stage with beautiful costumes and exquisite dance moves that has Gene Kelly's signature perfection written all over them. The scenery lends itself to smoothly shapeshift through the scenes using clever lighting and backdrops. As an audience member, you are made to feel included in parts of the show when they films are premiered, stars are presented on the red carpet and speeches are made at the film events.

The orchestra plays beautifully, the melodies of these timeless songs are exquisite and it's so wonderful to hear them fill the auditorium.

Don Lockwood is played by Sam Lips who is about to ooze the smoothness and charm of his character as well as execute dance moves that captivate the audience from the first few steps.

Lina Lamont is played by Jenny Gayner who perfects the role as the squeaky-voiced diva star who becomes ever more villainous as the show goes on, her big personality and powerful stage presence will have you drawn to her prima donna character.

Cosmo, Don's best friend, played by Ross McLaren is every bit as lovable and enchanting as in the film. Adding to the humour, cheekiness and energy to the role that has the audience roaring with laughter and constantly smiling. His performance of 'Make 'Em Laugh' is simply mind blowing!

Kathy Selden, played by Charlotte Gooch, effortlessly leaves the audience in awe of her angelic voice and enchanting moves. Kathy's beauty and wonder shines through the show as she captures the audience's adoration from her very introduction.

Don and Kathy have such a heart-warming chemistry on stage, and when he sings 'You Are My Lucky Star', your heart just melts.

It's a magical, nostalgic show, with everything you could possibly want in a production. At one point, I glanced around and saw all the faces of the audience smiling and, really, that's what it's all about – the escapism that live theatre brings and the happiness it radiates, and this is just the right show to do it.

Now, I can't finish this review without mentioning the title song '*Singin' In The Rain*', with the iconic lamppost and umbrella moves so perfected, it's truly amazing to see it performed in front of you. The effects are superb as is the dancing and singing, it really is a jaw dropping moment, guaranteed to leave you in pure awe!

Catch *Singin' In The Rain* while at Theatre Royal Plymouth, running until August 20th. Just simply put, a beautiful show that will take your breath away and leave you wanting to watch it all over again.