Theatre Royal Plymouth

Pretty Woman

Audio described performance

Saturday April 13th

Describer Pauline Raw

Good Afternoon everyone and welcome to the Theatre Royal Plymouth for this Ambassador Theatre  production of Pretty Woman, based on the   Touchstone Pictures written by J.F. Lawton , starring Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. Also based  on the book by Garry Marshall and J.F. Lawton.The music is by Bryan Adams  and Jim Vallance and the six  strong band is led by Griff K Johnson and they are situated  in the orchestra pit in front of the stage.

 **Please note, there will be  revealing costumes, simulated sex, semi nudity, there will also be a tango performed by two men,   strong language and innuendos.**

My name is Pauline , your describer for Act 1 and my colleague, Denise will describe Act 2 and will commence her notes  8  minutes before the end of the interval.

Synopsis

 Set in the 1980’s, Vivian  Ward is a woman trying to make some cash by being  a Hooker in Hollywood. She lives in an apartment  with  Kit De Luca, another experienced Hooker.  One evening , she encounters a successful businessman, Edward Lewis, wrestling with the gear shift of a Lotus trying to drive to his penthouse suite in the  Beverley Wiltshire  Hotel.  She comes to his rescue, at a price, and  eventually agrees to be   his companion for a week.  Their relationship develops but they hit quite a few problems.

 The original film was screened in 1990 and was directed by Gary Marshall, which amongst other films earned him a star on the Hollywood walk of Fame. The film  proved a great success and Julia Roberts and  Richard Gere were rumoured to have  become an item for a while  after  filming finished.

The main location of the story is the Beverly Wilshire Hotel  in Beverly Hills. It opened in 1928 . The original building which still stands today  is in the form of a letter E and a ballroom was added in the 1940’s to accommodate   the fashionable big bands of the era. In 1971, a tower wing was added  to join the Olympic size swimming pool and the tennis courts.

It still  attracts a celebrity clientele and world   leaders.

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There are multiple  scenes which morph into each other and the  songs  are spread across the show with  11 in Act 1 which will run for 76 minutes   and  there are 11  songs in Act 2 . Each scene runs seamlessly into each other with the clever  movement of props and scenery

A metal netted  frame is  taking all the backspace and  is hung with    the word   Holly  seen backwards in huge letters to denote the word Hollywood. The background is vivid blue with the proscenium lit in purple. This changes to  gold and pink . Two  very  tall curving  palm trees are on either side of the set and are laced with lit bulbs up their trunks and into the palm leaves.

 The frame disappears and more palm trees are revealed. Happy Man and male and female dancers in skimpy everyday clothes,  introduce us to Hollywood .  He  is dressed in trousers, sneakers  and a loose green parka decorated with lapel badges  over a Hawaiian shirt and he  wears a pork pie hat. There is a tower on the left with a sash window at the top. Underneath is an open  space with various advertising slogans at the back. A large wooden bench with  an advert for White Horse whisky  on the backrest is on the right next to a large wastepaper bin.

 We then  meet Philip Stuckey, a  bearded smart suited  lawyer employed by   Edward Lewis who is  a cold blooded  businessman who buys failing companies and makes them into successes but with no thought for the fall out to the workforce.  Stuckey is happy to be paid by Edward.

 Another  large  metal backdrop on a slant is  displaying a Video sign, banana and liquor sign  It is behind  Kit,  a hooker, dressed in a skimpy revealing  fitted patterned dress with hair piled high on her head

Vivian joins her in her shiny black  thigh boots,  black mini skirt, skimpy top,  large loose red jacket, huge  black bag and short blonde hair under a butcher boy  cap.

 On the streets and   Edward is heard grinding the gears of the    Lotus, much to the amusement of Kit and Vivian. He is tall, handsome and clean shaven  in a smart 3 piece suit.

Vivian approaches him and, for a price,she drives him to the Beverley Wiltshire  hotel. They get to know each other  on the drive and agree on  a price for her chauffering - and  eventual company.

They arrive at the Hotel.  The entrance is a very  tall  intricately carved arch in a Roman style  with columns flanking the arch and  the arch is  draped with a pair of plush curtains, hooked back. The smartly dressed  hotel manager ,Mr Thompson casts his  jaundiced eye over Vivian.

  They are taken to the  Penthouse  by the impressionable  Guilio, the head Bellhop and Vivian  inspects the plush surroundings. Three tall arched windows  in  a curve lead  to a balcony.  A cream chaise lounge  is on the left with a  metal framed coffee table in front and a matching  side table with a lamp and telephone. A grand piano is on the right.  She later  offers Edward a selection of  colourful condoms and they agree on her monetary  terms and of intimacy. She makes Edward comfortable on the sofa and drops a cushion to the floor and kneels in front of him  and  the rich, plush fringed curtain falls.

The next morning Vivian  is now without her blonde  wig  to reveal a thick mane of wavy  brunette hair  which reaches over her shoulders.. She is wearing a fluffy white dressing gown . Edward is in his shirt and trousers about to put on his tie. He tells her a little about his business

dealings. She agrees to stay for a week and names her price.

 Philip Stuckey arrives to talk business. He is wearing  a smart suit.   Vivian is singing  in the tub.  When they both leave ,she phones Kit  who arrives later  in her leather chain  festooned  bomber jacket,   matching mini skirt  and similarly decorated ankle boots.

Vivian prepares to go shopping in her original hooker  outfit and is  surprised that it  is not all straight forward. She and Kit go to Rodeo Drive where  various outfits are modelled by 6 models. They range from smart daywear  to elaborate evening wear  but  she returns empty handed  after a snub by two smart shop assistants in  a boutique. She is  greeted by  Mr Thompson, who  after an interesting talk in his office furnished  with a half circle table and two leather button backed easy chairs  decides to help her out  with clothing and to show her how to dance. He demonstrates  with Guilio and four male dancers in gold trimmed green blazers  and light trousers.

Edward arrives back to the hotel to be greeted by Vivian. She is  now wearing a beautiful  black  halter neck lacy cocktail dress with drop shoulder straps. Her hair is styled immaculately.   Edward is in a dark suit.  His business associate, David Morse, a younger man ,  is wearing a  similar suit. They meet in the Voltaire at the bar which has a curved back and shelves  with various liquor bottles.

Back in the Hotel Room and Vivian starts to chat to Edward to find out what makes him tick.

 Meanwhile we join Kit in front of the plush curtains  paying her  landlord and he has a girl on his arm.

The curtain rises and we are back  in the hotel room and Vivian informs Edward about the unsuccessful shopping trip and he springs into action.  They visit a boutique with a round hotel style blue velvet  plush seat, a curved counter with built-in glass  shelves and a deep  covered curved top clothes rail. There are 11 staff, the  6 males are  in smart trousers and blazers and the 5 females in smart blue knee length  dresses with white peter pan collars.Edward gives Vivian his credit card  to get as many outfits  she  will need for the week.

  After a more successful shop and dressed in a smart white dress and black high heeled  shoes, she takes the opportunity  to revenge herself on the snooty assistants from her last shopping trip.

And there we leave her for 20 minutes.

 Cast and characters

Happy Man…………………………………………………………Ore Oduba

 Philip Stuckey…A ruthless lawyer who likes rich clients…… .Ben Darcy

Edward Lewis,  a hard nosed ruthless businessman…………Oliver Savile

Kit De Luca.. An experienced Hooker………………………… Natalie Paris

Vivian Ward.. A beautiful inexperienced Hooker…………… ...Amber Davies

Mr Thompson.. A Hotel manager with a heart…………………Ore Oduba

Giulio……The Head Bellhop in the Hotel who likes to dance .Noah Harrison

David Morse… The son of a   failing business owner…………Chomba Taulo

Pretty Woman the Musical Theatre Royal Plymouth Programme Notes- Act Two Saturday 20th April 2024 @ 2:30 pm Audio Describer – Denise Reeves

Good Afternoon everyone and welcome back to the Theatre Royal Plymouth where we continue with this wonderful musical version of the film Pretty Woman.

I am Denise your audio describer for Act Two which lasts 57 minutes.

***Please note there will be the sound of champagne corks popping, mimics of a ship’s horn, cannon of confetti and discreet scenes of intimacy…together with more wonderful songs such as:* *Welcome to our World; You and I; and Together Forever.***

As the audience return to their seats, the opening set is the same as that of Act One with a metal netted frame taking the back space, on which is hung the word HOLLY seen backwards in huge letters lit up in purple. Once again, one scene segues seamlessly into the other as props and scenery is discreetly moved around.

The show continues as a somewhat enthusiastic loud guitarist runs onto the stage playing the opening bars of the iconic song Pretty Woman. But Happy Man – dressed in his loose green parka - runs in and stops him …for now…as he welcomes the audience back to Hollywood Boulevard. Then as the frame disappears to the music of *Welcome Back,* it is show time and the set changes to the two palm trees on either side being lit up – hanging between then is a lattice panel in the centre of which is a circular sign stating the Charity Polo Classic event - as Happy Man welcomes us to the Beverley Hills Polo Classic.

Club members gather dressed elegantly for the occasion in front of a yellow and white striped stand with a pelmet canopy, on which the winning cup is displayed together with bottles of champagne. Two stewards man the stand dressed in black and white striped jackets over a white shirt and cream v-neck sweater, both sporting cream flat caps and wearing black cravats.

Vivian appears on the arm of Edward, wearing a blue sleeveless v-neck polka dot knee length dress with neutral high heeled shoes, clutch bag and white gloves. Her dark hair is clipped back from her face but flows loosely onto her shoulders as she holds a glass of champagne. Edward sports blue jacket white shirt and red tie, with light brown trousers and brown shoes.

Edward introduces Vivian to various acquaintances, some of whom make quite direct and rude remarks to them both.

Whilst Edward is talking to The Senator and Vivian mingles, Philip spots Vivian talking with David Morse as he comes off the polo pitch dressed in a tight green and yellow polo shirt, cream jodhpurs tucked into long black boots and carrying a polo stick. Philip, dressed in a soft white linen suit with white shirt, blue tie, kerchief and white shoes, immediately probes Edward as to the nature of his relationship with Vivian. The mistaken revelation of which leaves Edward acknowledging the positive effect Vivian is beginning to have on him.

Next we move to the bedroom of the Penthouse at the hotel where Vivian confronts Edward following the Polo Club revelation, leaving her feeling hurt and angry. The following altercation between them makes Vivian question how she feels, as she sings *“This is My Life”.*

Following a chat with her friend Kit in front of the Banana Club, Happy Man and the ensemble tell Vivian in the vibrant song *Never Give up on your Dream,* but to chase it.

As Edward and Vivian endeavour to overcome hurdles bridging the gap between their two worlds, a surprise magical night at the opera La Traviata, sees Vivian dressed in the most stunning and elegant off the shoulder low cut red fitted gown, adorned with a stunning diamond and ruby necklace which Edward has chosen especially for her.

 Edward looks dashing in black tie dinner suit as they walk up the red carpeted staircase to take their seats in the curved gold box in front of a dimly lit stage framed by dark gold drapes, with a glowing glass chandelier hanging down in the centre. Four opera men appear laughing, dressed in black tails each holding a short stick with a mask on the end. The leading man Alfredo breaks into a moving aria, joined by leading lady Violetta wearing a beautiful pink satin gown, as the ladies of the opera dance behind and in front of them dressed in various elegant black gowns. A magical moment at the opera follows.

Back in the bedroom, they relate their feelings of the evening and indeed for each other through the lyrical song “You and I” after which a tender intimate moment occurs.

Following on from this, four suited lawyers appear each carrying a brief case, quite upbeat about the status of the proposed takeover of Morse’s company, but as Edward talks with Phil about their plans, he is not convinced that what they propose to do is the right thing.

Meanwhile, back at the Beverly Wilshire Pool, a young man runs in just wearing short swimming trunks having been for a swim as Vivian and Kit stroll in. He leaves quickly as he runs off pass the counter on the right which has yellow and white poolside towels on it. Kit tells Vivian it is time for her to make a change and enlightens Vivian as to her plans. Likewise, Vivian gives Kit an overview of her latest events with Edward.

We then revert to a large sign on the right, saying Morse Shipyard, inviting us into their boardroom where a big model of a cruise ship is displayed on a table on the left. Edward decides to change the Agenda much to the vocal eruption of the lawyers, as Edward asks them all to leave, whilst he meets with Morse alone.

Following the outcome of the meeting, Phil goes to the Penthouse apartment at the hotel to confront Edward, but finds Vivian alone instead – until Edward walks in.

As Edward’s return to New York draws nearer, he puts a proposal to Vivian for their future together. However, it is not the fairy tale she is looking for – maybe a week ago it might have been, but not now. Their feelings of which are told beautifully in the song *Long Way Home.*

The outcome leaves Edward re-evaluating his life as he takes a detour on his way to the airport.