

REIGATE INDEPENDANT

1991 *Guys and Dolls*

Good Guys and Dolls but weak story line

East Surrey Operatic Society gave an entertaining performance of what can best be described as a dull and weak story line in the musical “Guys and Dolls” at The Harlequin in Redhill. It was the first time that the society had staged this particular musical and they did a good job of it, with good costumes and effective lighting to illustrate the scenes on Broadway.

The story revolves around dice-rolling events, known as crap-shooting, and gambling which unfortunately create a very limited plot but it is saved by some foot-tapping tunes. Members of the cast were in good tuneful singing voice accompanied by the East Surrey Operatic Orchestra under the musical direction of Angela Barker. On occasions, some singing voices did not sound as strong as others and some of the lyrics were hard to hear and understand but it was not enough to spoil the performance. This was directed by Gillian Jarvis who also doubled up as set designer.

The cast all fitted their characters beautifully and threw themselves into the parts of gangsters for the Guys and night club ‘broad’ for the Dolls. All their accents were convincing. Susan Hazell as Miss Adelaide, and Fred Harrison as Arvid Abernathy, gave good performances as did Fiona Thompson as sweet missionary Sarah Brown who added contrast to the other “dolls” in the show. Dancing under choreographer Shirley Knight was also good.

As in all good shows they all ended up living happily ever after.