

LEGALLY BLONDE

CAODS at the Civic Theatre

Review by Clare Youell, Essex Chronicle

Omigod You Guys! Elle Woods brought all her fluffy fabulousness to the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford last week.

Caods, the Chelmsford Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society, took on Legally Blonde the Musical – and there wasn't an airhead in sight.

Keeley Denman's Elle was strong, funny and feisty and what a voice! It was easy to see why she had been cast in the lead role which required her to be in every scene yet she carried it with aplomb.

The musical version is very similar to the film complete with fab outfits, courtroom drama and cute pups. Such was the audience's reaction to Huli and Casey-Lulu who play Bruiser and Rufus, that they could've stole the show if the cast wasn't so strong. Also a scene-stealer was Robyn Gowers who played Elle's kooky friend Paulette, who provided the best comedy moments of the show.

Also impressing the sold-out crowds were David Gillett playing Elle's charming love interest Emmett, Jacob Burtenshaw as self-obsessed Warner, and Becki Wendes who played the wrongfully-accused stunner Brooke Wyndham.

Fans of the movie certainly weren't disappointed, and the specially-written songs for the show added to the charm, wit and passion of the story. Highlights included Chip On My Shoulder, the brilliant Bend and Snap and the titular Legally Blonde.

There were whispers that the opening song at the first part of act II was a real show-stopper and the rumour mill wasn't wrong. It saw the cast in an expertly-choreographed skipping routine as Brooke led her cellmates in an elaborate exercise class. Apparently it took weeks to perfect but it paid off on the night.

There might be a lot of tiny tops and diminutive doggies, but through the core of Legally Blonde runs a serious message – Don't judge a book by its cover!

A very pink, and rather poignant show.