

## Entertainment

# Great way to start off

**The Boy Friend  
Chelmsford Amateur  
Operatic and Dramatic  
Society, Civic Theatre.**

CAODS chose this lightweight, visually entertaining 1920s spectacle to open its 2005 autumn season.

From the spectacular, authentic costumes and dance routines of the opening numbers, through to the real show-stopping finale, Ray Jeffery's gang of hoofers rarely put a foot wrong.

Superb voicework from Amelia Burns, Angela Broad and Paul Synnott was supported by Caods' customary rich chorus projection.

There is a story of sorts to Sandy Wilson's roaring

1920s musical tale of privilege and snobbery, but no-one allowed this to get in the way of showing off scene after scene of great singing and dancing, backed by the well-rehearsed orchestra led by Andrew Denyer.

I will long remember the Tango by dance captain Diana Baker and Chris Clements, full of expert footwork and great humour.

I'm especially fond of the way the group maintains a meticulous attention to detail without ever letting it cramp its style.

Just the slightest flick of footstep, probably not even noticed by most of the audience, is enough to lift the veil on the months of hard work and sweat that makes it all seem so effortless.

**JIM HUTCHON**