

Musical with fire power and girl power

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

Civic Theatre, Chelmsford

Review by Sophia Charalambous

IF there ever was a musical which could make a love story ooze with girl power, it is Annie Get Your Gun.

This production from the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society was full of energy, humour and razzle-dazzle.

Claire Carr plays Annie Oakley, shining in her role as a feisty, illiterate sharp-shooter from the Midwest.

She convincingly played the part of a young girl from Ohio who rose to fame through her quick shooting on a touring Wild West Show. It was through the show she

met leading marksman of the time, Frank Butler, played by Richard Harrison.

Harrison impressed with his powerful vocals and the chemistry between the two lead characters was subtle yet believable.

With hit songs such as Anything You Can Do and There's No Business Like Show Business, it was difficult to sit still and not dance along.

The production was not the original Irving Berlin from 1946, which was seen as too offensive to Native Americans, and instead was a 1999 adaptation by Ray Jeffrey.

But as a play within a play, based on a true story, we were able to gain an insight into the character of famous Western

showman, Buffalo Bill.

The cast of 60 young and old filled the stage and although it was slightly chaotic at times, they managed to keep in time with some very complicated dance sequences.

A special mention must go to Kevin Richards who played the extremely camp show manager, Charlie Davenport, for amusing the audience with his acrobatics and quick one-liners.

Elle Moreton must also get a mention for her performance as Dolly Tate, Frank's assistant, who was loud, overbearing and obnoxious but comical too.

Annie Get Your Gun was everything you could want from a musical, a warm, uplifting show with a strong message – that girls rule and make boys drool!