

REVIEWS

Judas stars in Easter show

**Jesus Christ Superstar
Chelmsford Amateur
Operatic and Dramatic Society
Civic Theatre until Saturday April 3**

THE programme notes explain that Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society has waited many years to perform this rock opera. And now it has become available for groups like CAODS to stage, the group was looking forward with excitement to doing so. And that is apparent from the performance. The stage is cramped full with actors and dancers singing their hearts out and really enjoying themselves. Considering the amount of people on the stage at some moments during the production you fear they may bump into each other, but this was not the case. Everyone performed faultlessly. Of course this Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical needs no introduction -

telling the Easter story of Jesus's betrayal by Judas and his crucifixion.

And for me it is Judas who is the star of the show.

Paul Tarrant is superb as the traitorous disciple blending both anger at the "Superstar" Jesus has become and the guilt of his own betrayal. He plays the role with such feeling that you can almost touch his dilemma.

Stuart Woolner as Jesus could have been a little stronger in the role and at times his voice appeared to struggle to reach the high notes.

Karen Kelleher as Mary held the audience spellbound with her rendition of *I Don't Know How to Love Him* bringing the first act to a close.

The costumes and scenery were also excellent and the final scene of the crucifixion is very dramatic.

CAODS under the direction of Ray Jeffery can be very proud of this presentation.

DENISE RIGBY