

1999

CHELMSFORD AODS - SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS

Stunning, simply stunning! This was entertainment at its best. It doesn't happen very often, that there isn't something I could point out for improvement, but this time I was stumped. The production and choreography (so important for this show) were of the highest standard and I was delighted to note the welcome lack of stage dressing. Costumes were very good and, like the scenery, attention had been paid to detail. The scenery whilst very big and did cramp the full company in one number, was exceptionally effective. The backstage crew (often the unsung heroes) deserve special mention for their very slick and silent handling of the scene changes. Barry Hester as Adam, played the part of his life. Elizabeth Shaw as Millie was thoroughly believable and whilst singing sweetly managed to wear Adam down and he in turn convinced her that 'her place was behind her man'. The brides and brothers evidenced superb discipline and extraordinary talent. They sang and danced beautifully. The show was well supported by Andrew Denyer and his colleagues in the pit but Ray Jeffery and his production team deserve the highest accolade. Without doubt, the audience so obviously agreed - and they were virtually sold out. Fantastic!

Report by Eric Smart on behalf of Colin Butcher