

Hot shot Annie is brilliant!

ANNIE Oakley, in the shape of Rachel Parsons, is a hot shot this week in Ray Jeffery's bullseye production of Annie Get Your Gun.

Annie, the choice of Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society at the Civic Theatre, is one of those musicals where a disproportionate amount of the show's success falls on one cast member's shoulders. If Annie doesn't come up to scratch, no matter how brilliant the rest of the

ENTERTAINMENTS
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show, it won't be a smash hit.

Well this Annie does come up to scratch — brilliantly! Not only does Rachel tear into all her numbers guns a-blazing, but she also shows us the soft, feminine side of Annie so that her characterisation is truly 3-D.

As Colonel Frank Butler,

Patrick Tucker shows exactly why he is such a valued stalwart member of CAODS. His singing uses his lower vocal register to great advantage and his acting fully encompasses the change of the Colonel's moods.

Richard Clements and Melanie Hughes make a sparkling duo as Tommy and Winnie, their jazzy song and dance number coming off particularly well. And Peter Sherlock as Charlie Davenport and John Court as Colonel Cody give fine supporting performances.

A special word of praise too for the naturalness of Annie's children's performances and the skill with which Leo McGiff copes with the none too well written part of Chief Sitting Bull.

But, as always with a Ray Jeffery performance, it is the staging of the ensemble numbers that stand out — the Indian dance sequence at the end of act one being especially eye catching.

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