



Nikki Ponting had devised interesting choreography for the show, the big tap number, which includes both generations of 'Follies' girls, needs to be spectacular enough for 'The Follies' but simple enough for everyone to dance competently and this she achieved. Miss Kitty Ribbons had certainly made sure the girls the girls fluttered their fans well.

The music of Sondheim is well known for its complexity and this show is no exception. Musical Director Allan Gillespie was in control at all times of both musicians and singers. The band did not overpower the singers but occasionally some of the singers needed a little more volume. Roscoe's opening number 'Beautiful Girls' gave a foretaste of what was to come, it was well sung with good supporting work from the chorus. There is insufficient space to comment on all the musical numbers but highlights included 'Could I Leave You?' and 'Losing My Mind'. The ensemble number 'Waiting for the Girls Upstairs' was particularly impressive with the participants spread around the theatre. Both generations performed their songs well and I particularly liked Carlotta Campion's presentation of 'I'm Still Here'.

The choice of show was obviously popular and had attracted a large, competent cast. There were good portrayals from the 'older girls' reliving past triumphs. The four main characters of Sally, Phyllis, Buddy and Ben provided a challenge as they have their younger counterparts and so there have to be similar elements in the personalities of younger and older selves. They worked well together creating some poignant moments of 'remembered youth'. The physical similarities between all 'younger and older selves' were amazing and you could easily identify the characters. The whole cast had developed individual characters, some achieving more depth than others, but all working well together. But for me the older Phyllis Stone had encapsulated the character perfectly both emotionally and physically.

Director Caroline Young, had worked hard with her cast who had obviously enjoyed working with her; she brought some interesting ideas to the production with the very simple set, projected photographs which helped tell the story, and her use of the theatre. Both cast and audience had obviously enjoyed the evening.

Congratulations to everyone on an excellent evenings entertainment.

*Frankie Telford.  
Regional Representative. District 15.*

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