**NODA –** NATIONAL **OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION**

     **HERSTMONCEUX AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY**

 **THAT’S ENTERTAINMENT -  11TH NOVEMBER 2023**

Well, that really was entertainment!   A lovely afternoon spent in enjoying songs from all the HATS musicals since 2007, a total of 51 songs in all.

It’s impossible to mention all who took part but suffice it to say, all were in very good voice.  So good to see such an age range on stage from some who were in HATS first show to some of a younger age and had come up from Young HATS.

All the songs were performed to recorded music so well arranged and recorded by Michael Cullen and this worked very well indeed.

Chris and Linda Thompson directed and Linda looked after the choreography which resulted in not only excellent singing but extremely good movement from everyone on stage.  Margaret Law Sampson was the rehearsal pianist and as mentioned in the Directors’ Notes, rehearsals must have been challenging with so many songs and steps to learn but what a great result!

The show started with “That’s Entertainment” with everyone in black with very effective red sashes.  As the show excerpts proceeded, there were many changes of coloured T shirts,  also very effective.  The backcloth was ideal with the lighting (designed by Douglas Morgan) making the whole setting sparkle delightfully in different ways.

Many of the shows were very well known, ie Hello Dolly, The Sound of Music and Me & My Girl with one or two of the more up to date ones like Billy (performed in 2011) and Our House (performed in 2018).  There is so much talent in this Society that they are able to tackle all sorts.  The finale was One Day More from Les Miserables – you never know HATS might be able to procure this show to perform one day!

Apart from being on stage, there are so many other jobs that have to be carried out such as costumes, programme design, publicity and front of house etc – the refreshments are always very welcome!

Thank you, Chris & Linda and all involved for all your hard work which resulted in real entertainment.  I know your audiences will look forward to HATS shows for a long time to come.

Brenda Gower Regional NODA Representative