

Chitty-in-Wimbledon

Anonymous contribution

We gave ourselves a little treat yesterday after a tough couple of months to see the matinee of Chitty in Wimbledon. We'd seen it during the opening week in Milton Keynes, and Lee delivered then and the show was compelling, wonderful and nostalgic, especially with those opening bars of Chitty, Chitty... Bang, Bang!

Yesterday, we had some stall seats right on the edge, so I wasn't expecting as good a view, but we both agreed it was better than central stalls, so cheaper seats are great 😊 (these seats allowed you to see the action in the car when it was flying – our central stall seats experience meant we only saw the under carriage which we were quite disappointed about in MK).

There have been some extensive reviews so far, so here are just some thoughts on the show, more specifically how Lee has embraced the role of CP and really, really made it his own. I felt that all the characters that stood out and shone in MK just faded to grey yesterday. They were there, still doing a great job; I think Carrie's Truly is just perfect, but I guess Lee has cemented this role so completely now he is mesmerising and there's no one else on stage when he's singing.

There was a catch to his voice yesterday, at first I thought maybe he was losing it, but I think it's an emotive thing, especially when you get to Hushabye Mountain.... His voice alongside the jewellery box just rings out clear across the auditorium, and I think quite a few people had glassy eyes and sniffles by the end; after a moment's pause in which you could almost hear said sniffles the applause erupted out and remained, reminiscent of 'Close Every Door' in the Jo Days.

Me Ol' Bamboo, wow, hasn't the energy gone up in that? Not just the dance steps now, but more dance steps I'm sure (plenty of exuberant tapping) and the jumps, higher than the rest, and the facial expressions too! To be honest, I still don't have a clue whether he sings in that number - I think he does – but you just get carried away with the manic tempo and by the time he's leaning on his stick, pulling faces and catching his breath... so is the audience – and we didn't leave our seats 😊

Then Potts the inventor kicks in, the scene with Grandpa and kids singing 'Posh', I'd completely forgotten about that, but loved the song. But, as a Lee admirer you do keep waiting for him to appear stage right.... Messy shirt, sweaty shirt, tool belt and a determined look.... Yep, we liked that bit ;)

Then he appears, with the backwards cap, which I think means you can 'really' see his face for once; and my friend melts...!



I'm completely whisked back to being a 6 year old when Chitty first appears, all sparkling new, and flutters her headlights at 'PLEEEEEASE', then the engine noises start, then the first notes... and you can't help but get a shiver down your spine. But I love, love, love the looks on Lee's face, and especially when flying as I can see from this seat!

His smile is every bit as big as mine. Let's face it, if you want to drive an iconic car, then Chitty is one that is going to make you beam!

Love the song, love the scenes, love the rushing scenery that give such movement.... In fact the Lee and Chitty scenes could be the whole show and I think I'd be happy 😊



You've got to hand it to the production team, the tension they build towards the end of act one, I forgot to breathe I'm sure. I'm willing the car on, I'm willing Lee on, I want to jump in and fly off to Vulgaria (well no, not Vulgaria, but anywhere else) with them. Move over Truly, make space for me!

Act 2

I have to hop over the bits I really don't like, I tried but I just can't like that Chu Chi scene. I think I dozed it was so hot in the Auditorium in part 2. But the Truly and Potts banter reels you straight back in; their chemistry and timing is so good. From the toy shop to the Jack in a Box, there is something strangely cute about Lee in the orange wig and red nose.

Carrie in the doll scene is utterly perfect, and the charming way in which Lee plays his part then cheekily winds her up again, her 'looks' and their duet – well I think that part should just be recorded for theatre history under example of 'Exquisite Performance'.

Then, done and dusted, baddies captured, reeled away, tied up, banished without their teddy bear, etc, now comes the part that the whole audience gasped in anticipation for....

The timing of the acting allowed for the pregnant pause, and the audience literally caught their breath as one Potts knelt on one knee; and the audience melted. And it was Potts, as the performance was so complete, the character so believable and the audience so drawn in it was a magical moment, where we shared his adventure and shed a little tear as Truly accepted his proposal....

Ahhhhh

I looked to the stranger to my right and she was furiously dabbing her eyes, I looked to my friend to the left who was glossy eyed and hands to her face; so I figured being a little mushy myself was OK

sniff 😊

THE END

