

Cobbled 42nd Street has great potential

**42nd Street (Worle Operatic and Dramatic Society):
Weston Playhouse**

COBBLED together from several film and theatre sources, this show has no right to be the smash hit it has been ever since it opened on Broadway in 1980. The script, which contains the legendary line 'You're going out there a youngster but you've got to come back a star', is little more than a backstage yarn.

Harry Warren and Al Dubin's score however, is brimming over with numbers that race around your brain long after you've left the theatre.

Many of them fell to Natalie Kessel as Peggy Sawyer and she did not waste such golden opportunities. This was just as well because Bev Priest's portrait of the ageing star Dorothy Brock was delivered in a deceptively easy, sometimes almost too casual, manner.

More of Bev's confident air could have been used by Pete

Tyrell in the role of the famous Broadway producer Julian Marsh. He showed us why theatre people so admired him as a director but we needed to feel a threatening edge.

The chorus must have put in a tremendous amount of work so they could bring out the best in Lois Bennett and Carrie Buck's choreography.

Some nice characters came from Lisa Marie Smith and David Bailey as the pair who had written 'Pretty Lady', the show within a show.

Director Bob Gibbons kept things moving along and used a company very well dressed by Heather Gadd and her team to create a series of fine period pictures.

There are still a few rough edges to polish but when they are shining bright this pleasant fun evening will bring even more pleasure to their audiences.

6/10

GERRY PARKER