

## Lady Manners School Musical Review

On Friday 26 November 1999 I went to see the Lady Manners School performance of Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The show began at 7.30 p.m. and the audience consisted of parents, children, teachers and friends of the school. Immediately a bright and colourful opening scene captivated us. The backing singers/dancers were dressed in an array of rainbow colours, with their attire giving a graded effect on and around the stage. We met Jacob, a greatly convincing old man and the eleven brothers who were a wild and comical bunch of louts, and of course the star of the show, a well cast Joseph, played by David Hartley who gave a superb performance of Jacob's youngest son. He had a boyish charm and a twinkle in his eye that would be endearing to any audience.

Throughout the production there were four marvellous female narrators who sang with angelic voices that filled the school hall. We met the pompous Potiphar with his resounding voice and seductive wife whose performances were full of character and humour. Pharaoh graced the stage with gyrating hips, great thrusting movements and the biggest hair I have ever seen! Elvis lives! This was a truly spectacular performance by David Barnes.

The show was presented professionally, incorporating fabulous props including Joseph's golden chariot – a bicycle wearing golden clothes! The students demonstrated a great humorous quality that had the audience in fits of laughter and in one scene better French accents than can be heard in Paris! The dancing and singing talents of all the cast members were astounding. The orchestra, a selection of brass, strings and percussion who played almost solidly for two hours was a credit to the school's music department. The brilliant lighting display and the sound quality were faultless. The grand finale brought with it a brilliant, dazzling and highly colourful extension of Joseph's coat which was wrapped around his waist and held taut by the other cast members. It was an exciting and challenging production by the school and it was entirely successful due to the hard work of all involved including the producer, David Wilson, the musical director Lynne Clarke and the choreographer Debra Goodwin...Looking forward to the next one.

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