

**Group: Starburst**  
**Show: Fame – The Musical**  
**Venue: St Nicholas School, Church Crookham**  
**Date: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010**



**Directors: Daniel Woodhouse & Gary Phillips**  
**Musical Director: Paul Darrah**  
**Choreographer: Liz Woodford**

**Fame – the Musical** was set during the last years of New York City's celebrated High School for the Performing Arts on 46th Street, Fame - The Musical is a bittersweet but ultimately inspiring story of a group of students, from varied backgrounds, as they commit to four years of gruelling artistic and academic work. The story revolves around the romances and friendships develop as the story makes a social statement especially relevant to today's youth.

**Front of House:** A very warm welcome from director Gary Phillips, later joined by his fellow director, Daniel Woodhouse and choreographer Liz Woodford. The photographs of previous shows enhanced the vestibule.

**Theatre Ambience:** The newly built performing arts centre, the Pritchard Hall, was a first class venue creating a professional theatre atmosphere.

**The Programme:** An A5 24 page programme was well designed, providing good information with an opening statement of the purposes of Starburst as a charity raising funds to help local children with disabilities and special needs. The musical numbers, cast, orchestra and production team were detailed and interspersed with relevant pictures. The pen portraits were interesting and gave an insight into the talents and aspirations of the members. Good to see details of the production team. Credits to those who have helped Starburst were well sized and prominent. The details concerning the auditions for the next productions were a great advert not only for cast but for future ticket sales. The vitality of starburst was evident throughout the programme. The NODA crest was not present.

**Scenery/Set:** The open set partially hidden by a black gauze welcomed the audience into the hallways of the High School of Performing Arts. The creation of the second level with approaching staircases gave the directors great flexibility. The revolving lockers put a different perspective on school corridors.

**Make Up:** The make-up was generally very natural.

**Costume:** The show began with costumes appropriate to youngsters at college but as the show progressed the many and varied costumes subtly changed with the various scenes to the grand finales all glitter and sparkle.

**Properties:** These were all appropriate.

**Lighting & Sound:** These were well controlled and created the varied atmospheres.

**The Production:** The overwhelming feeling throughout the show was of an enthusiastic and committed group of young people (and the older ones!) with a

great deal of talent. Whether a front row principal or a back row member of the chorus or dance troupe everyone was convincing in their role. Occasionally the clarity was affected by the speed of delivery.

The production well suited the very talented cast and crew - a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Congratulations on a very gifted and inspiring production. Thank you for inviting me and for your hospitality.

A short review will appear in due course in NODA South East News.

**Kay Rowan**  
**District 14 Regional Representative**