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SERVING AMATEUR THEATRE SINCE 1899

**LEWES OPERATIC SOCIETY
THE KING AND I
FRIDAY 11TH APRIL 2008-07-09**

What a super production! Lewes certainly pulled out all the stops to give their audiences such an enjoyable evening telling the ever popular musical tale based on the novel “Anna & The King of Siam” by Margaret London.

The music, with it’s interesting eastern connotation, was superbly dealt with by your talented Conductor and Musical Director Lee Reynolds and his equally talented band of musicians. The whole thing burst into life immediately and we were then treated to spectacular sets and costumes which took us right into the heart of old Siam.

Sarah Hall as Anna Leonowens gave a lovely performance as the very English Governess in an extremely strange land. A good stage presence with very clear diction in both speaking and singing. Her son, played by Dominic Rawson also gave a very good account of himself.

Andy Freeman’s characterisation of the King was absolutely perfect – he **was** the King of Siam, always wanting to be thought of as progressive, and he and Sarah worked so well together. The King’s son (Prince Chululongkorn) played by Alfred Chambers used just the right amount of arrogance to show us that he was the King’s son and next in line to the throne. Another very good performance.

Lun Tha and Tuptim (Sebastian Charlesworth and Amanda Shaw) sang and acted very movingly together and brought a great deal of pathos to the piece.

Lynn Deacon as Lady Thiang gave real depth to the part and enchanted us with her beautiful voice.

All the other principals, together with the chorus of wives, the dancers who were also nurses, the priests and the King’s children all worked so well all the time which made it very easy to imagine that we were in the King’s Court in old Siam.

Your choreographers, Lucy Freeman and Louise Hackett, did a wonderful job and the Small House of Uncle Thomas Ballet was most impressive.

All those backstage responsible for set design and construction, lighting, props, wardrobe and all the other jobs that go to making a success of a show are to be congratulated, together with those responsible for the programme – Lewes programmes are always well laid out and make an interesting read.

Helen Thomas, as a new Director, did an amazing job and should be very proud of this extremely successful and enjoyable production.

Brenda Gower Regional NODA Representative

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Patron: The Lord Lloyd-Webber

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