

OLIVER!



Dim the house lights, cue dramatic music, cue smoke machine and bring on Year 7 looking hungry. Thus began one of the finest productions ever seen at EIC, a truly spectacular version of the musical OLIVER!

It is rare indeed to see a show at any level where the singing and acting are both brilliantly well executed, let alone a school production. I was there at the 'pep talk' just after the last rehearsal when Mr Dunckley spurred the cast on, saying that if they performed as well as they were capable then people would say 'it was a great show' and not 'it was great for a school production'. The pep talk worked, everyone produced not one but three truly memorable performances. If you were not fortunate enough to have been among the 500 or so people who saw the show then you missed a real treat.

With 70 or so performers (nobody managed an accurate count) in the cast, it is a thankless task to single out individuals for special praise because someone is bound to be missed. So let me start by saying that the Year 7 and 8 chorus and bit part players were excellent and created the right atmosphere for the principle players to be able to shine. Without the enthusiastic responses from the chorus the evening would have been very flat.

Mr David Dunckley, the only non student in the cast, played Fagin. We all knew he could act very well as he has been doing so very successfully on the coast for many years, but it came as a complete surprise that he could sing so well. The opposite could be said of Rio Summers, anyone who knows her knows what a brilliant and professional singer she is, but who knew she could act as well? A star in the making should she choose to go down that path.