

## **Drowsy Chaperone Feedback**

### Direction, Musical Direction and Choreography

Everyone on the creative team was highly commended by Audience, Crew and Cast for the amazingly positive atmosphere they brought to the show. It was clear from the comments that the team were very tight-knit and brought their friendly and open attitude into both the rehearsal process and show week. In particular, audience members commented on the particularly ambitious nature of the blocking, and how some brave decisions made the show thoroughly engaging to watch.

The cast commented that Robin and Andy were a joy to work with, setting clear objectives and “straddling the line between hard work and fun impeccably” during rehearsals. They were said to be present in almost every rehearsal, being a continuous positive force even when the rehearsal was purely for vocals or dance. It was noted that they also tried wherever possible to take on cast feedback regarding breaks and rehearsal times, giving a relaxed feel to rehearsals.

It was stated that Honor didn't necessarily have much say in direction directly when blocking scenes, but her energy and character work with members of the principle cast more than made up for it. She was thanked for her continuous encouragement throughout.

The only small negative that was mentioned was that at some points the rehearsals felt somewhat rushed. Whether this was to do with rights issues or a lack of organisation it is unclear, but the main message is that it did not affect the show as a whole and is possibly just something that Robin and Andy may need to be aware of in future shows.

The MD team were also praised, with particular mention often going to Joe and Megan who were seen as a tremendous support network for the cast. Their humble and sweet nature shining through consistently when teaching some very tricky group numbers. The recording of the harmonies by Becky was also thought to be invaluable for learning such a complex show in a small time window.

Alyssa and Michael were credited with pulling off ‘some of the best and most ambitious choreography in Showstopper history’, and similarly to the rest of the production team were commented to have wonderful attitudes in rehearsals. It is clear that Michael has grown as a Choreographer and is ‘an asset to Showstoppers’. Alyssa in particular was noted to go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the cast were comfortable with the routines.

### Production

Overall, the production was seen to be very effective. The very clearly defined roles of each producer meant that the show was successfully publicised and brought in great audiences every night. Personally, Danny, Andy and David were mentioned to be very mature and handling their jobs with ease even when there was cast/production team overlap. Felicia was the most emphatically spoken about member of the team, summed up by the quote; “Felicia – wow, just wow”. Every single member of the cast and crew mentioned Fliss in a positive light, stating that her ability to source costumes and organise props was second to none. Even when there were hiccups, she dealt with them efficiently and professionally, showing so much dedication to the show.

The time constraints on the rehearsal process meant that time with props was limited, and costumes came at the last minute, but because of the commitment of the producers none of this was seen to be a significant problem and certainly not a fault on their part.

### Cast

The audience were impressed by the casts fluidity on stage and their ability to work together to create a fully rounded piece. The strong friendships, both old and new were clear throughout the rehearsal process and the show itself, motivating and helping each other through an intensive rehearsal period. There was comments made towards a couple of cast members who seemed to have a bad attitude in some of the rehearsals, bringing down the good mood set out by Robin and Andy. However, all of these comments were followed with how this issue was dealt with discreetly by the production team, talking to the individuals alone and sorting the problem from its roots. This was seen to resolve the problems, and lift the moral of the cast once again.

It was noted, even by the members themselves, that the cast could be too noisy at times. This could be distracting to other cast members and to the directorial team. However, this was accompanied by comments (again from cast members) that this was because they had bonded so much as a unit and the excitement and energy for the show sometimes outweighed discipline.

### Tech

The staging, sound and lighting in general were seen as inventive and innovative for Showstoppers. The use of the space was effective for the level of dance in the show, with plenty of room for the high-energy musical numbers. The sound was commented to be perfectly balanced and the sound technicians should be praised for ensuring every single syllable was heard.

The use of the revolve divided opinion. Surprisingly, many of the negative comments came from the production team, who thought it clumsy and potentially unnecessary. However, all of the audience members and cast seemed to love the revolve. Most thought it brought a new dimension to the show and subsequently made the show more interesting. To summarise, whether comments on the practicalities were positive or negative, most seemed to agree that it was a brave move for Showstoppers and more original staging ideas such as this should be used in the future.

StageSoc were commended for their hard work at all stages of the process, making the set look authentic through the use of set and lighting. Yet some of the cast members seemed abraded by their attitude during the show itself, with comments against some members being rude.

### Show Overall

This section I feel is best summarised by quotes.

“I thought the show was amazing. It was so much fun and although I had not heard of it before, I thoroughly enjoyed myself whilst watching. Everyone involved should be extremely proud.” (Audience)

“It was fantastic. Honoured to be a part of it! I loved it!” (Cast)

“I loved it and so did the audiences who came to see it! I think this show is testament to what we can pull off as a society, even under pressure.” (Cast)

“I loved it. From start to finish, there was energy, enthusiasm and talent across the prod team and the cast, which was what stood out for me. I think particular mention should go to Robin and Andy who worked exceptionally well as a directorial pair, as well as Alyssa who was without a shadow of a doubt the most the best choreographer I've ever worked with. Although I hadn't heard of Drowsy before this, it's now become one of my favourite shows, and I thank everyone for making this such a great experience.” (Cast)

“...lets do it again?” (Director)