

Company Feedback

The feedback here is almost entirely in full quotes as it was submitted. No submission was omitted. Where quotes have been edited, lines have been removed to improve how the submissions read and some lines have been removed which spoke about specific details and thus are not helpful to the society going forward.

Green indicates responses to “What did you like about...” questions.

Red indicates responses to “What could be improved about...” questions.

Rehearsal Process

“Really good fun! We didn't really have any issues throughout the rehearsal process which I think was down to our pretty laid back cast and the fact that we organised things fairly well. The cast were occasionally a little difficult to keep quiet but they all said that they had lots of fun which is the main thing.”

“The best show I have been fortunate enough to be a part of.”

“The rehearsal were so well organised and almost always felt highly productive. Lydia is the dream and the whole team should be commended for their forward thinking and making the process as stress free as possible.”

Direction

“Andy was a fantastic AD, always contributing ideas and tweaks and picking up on character subtleties. I have no doubt that he could direct a cast beautifully in future should he wish to.”

“Lydia was amazing as always! She had a very clear vision for the show, and her blocking was so brilliantly thought through. The directing team did a very good job of teaching this to the cast as well- even difficult scenes like Another Hundred People were pretty much exactly the same every night! The use of the benches as different set pieces was really imaginative, and I loved it!”

“Our directors were organised and clear in their ideas for blocking and character/what they wanted from us as actors. They were patient with us always.”

“Lydia was the best director ever. Her organisation levels were crazily precise but she also tailored rehearsals to people's specific needs and managed to get everything blocked so quickly and efficiently. There wasn't any time where I felt overlooked, as even when background acting she offered helpful feedback, and she was so encouraging and helpful in bringing my character to life and importantly let me do my own thing with the character. I love her!”

“I would say that maybe some of the characters did not come off as being particularly 'old'. Obviously none of us are that age, so it was difficult, but I didn't really believe that any of them were old enough to have children.

I'd also suggest that maybe there wasn't enough of a distinction for the audience in what was real and what wasn't, although I think that probably is a fault of the show itself. Classic Sondheim.”

“This is perhaps a fault of the limited time we have, but it would have been awesome to work on the characters a bit more intensively - that said, as a cast we were slow on the learning of the show and we could have left ourselves with more time for character development if we had learnt our stuff sooner.”

Production

“Jess and Georgia were both wonderful and did everything that we asked of them. Georgia organised one of the best cast meals I think we've all ever had and Jess was fab for sourcing props, especially all the consumables in show week. They were both also absolute gems for sitting backstage during show week to help with lighting candles. Charlie and Catriona were also wonderful - Charlie as always did so much to help out with the design and ordering flyers and helping us to film trailers and really went above and beyond - and should accept credit as a full producer more often! Catriona was also a star for helping us hunt down costumes in the PA house and lending us her rug and bed sheets for the show.”

“I really loved the costumes- I liked the subtlety of the characters wearing the same colour, it wasn't over the top but just noticeable enough! The candle effect was great, considering how difficult that felt like it was going to be to pull off.”

“Our costumes were awesome, and the design for the posters and fliers for the show plus the trailers and the Facebook advertising were all brilliantly executed ideas.”

“I (Lydia) should have given Jess and Georgia and Catriona more to do in terms of ordering particularly costumes as I ended up doing that myself but only because I am useless at delegating. They would have done a fantastic job and I should have delegated the responsibility to them!”

“Was not the world's biggest fan of the design- it felt a little bit outdated. I think it would have helped if Cat (and maybe Jamie?) had worn some kind of subtle old makeup? I think a lot of jokes about her age were missed because she looked a lot younger than Brendan!”

“Generally I guess we just didn't push publicity as much as we could have done (might have benefited from having a bigger push in terms of flyering on campus/roads etc.)”

Musical Direction

“Andy and Joe are great! They taught the cast magnificently what is a very difficult score. They both worked super hard and were wonderful to work with. They had the band sourced ridiculously early which was wonderful.”

“The band were the best band I have ever heard in the Annex! Singing was also fab, although I think both were supported by incredible individual performers.”

“I cannot fault the talent, patience and perseverance of our MDing team. Andy and Joe were so good to us, and helped us conquer an incredibly challenging show as well as mastering it themselves. They are a fantastic team.”

“When teaching us they were both so patient and Amazingly encouraging and I never felt embarrassed or under pressure when singing in front of them. Especially coming down to the tedious process of learning harmonies they were both so patient. Overall I think the sound of the whole cast was great and this is all down to their precise teaching and high levels of effort they put in.”

“Literally nothing?? Andy and Joe are gods of music”

“I cannot fault the talent, patience and perseverance of our MDing team. Andy and Joe were so good to us, and helped us conquer an incredibly challenging show as well as mastering it themselves. They are a fantastic team.”

Choreography

“Ruthie is fantastic! She put some absolutely cracking choreography into this show and worked extremely hard! She says that Sondheim isn't written for her but I call bullshit because she did it so so well!”

“SIDE BY SIDE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! So exciting, best ever, everyone was great. I also loved some of the small subtle co-ordinated movements (head snapping to side in Little Things for example)”

“The dance really came together in the last week, and I think Ruthie did a very good job with a cast of such mixed dance ability.”

“The choreography was hard work to get looking good, but we were all so proud when we finally pulled it off, and we hope Ruthie is too. It was stressful for all involved at times, particularly in more challenging numbers for those in the cast who are by and large not 'dancers' such as Side by Side, but the reason it was stressful was because we cared about making it the best it could be and ultimately I think it was worth it. “

“Although I got stressed with it at times, the overall result of the work of the choreography was well worth it for the end result. I felt my dancing has been improved by the show and I loved performing the amazing choreography and wanted to make Ruthie proud!”

“Tick Tock was very random and felt out of place. I think there is a good reason for it being cut from many productions! It would have made slightly more sense had it only been Kathy dancing, but I think the inclusion of the other girlfriends took away from her moment in the spotlight. I would also suggest that the choreography for the number itself was potentially too ambitious for the dancers- if they had been able to execute everything perfectly it would possibly not have felt quite so awkward, but as it was some of them got lost and it was hard to tell if they were out of time or supposed to be working in canon.”

“At one point or another the stress of mastering the dances made all in the process behave in a way that I think they wouldn't be proud of, but as explained above, on balance it was well-meaning stress that came from endeavoring to get the choreography right.”

“I felt sometimes that because I'm not trained in dance to as high a standard as others, I sometimes felt some moves where slightly rushed she taught and went over my head. But this was raised and I learnt them eventually I just took a bit longer than others”

Tech

“Catherine and Patrick are wonderful and we could never do shows without them! Catherine created beautiful lights, tech run was an absolute breeze. Patrick went out of his way to go to PA house to get different treds which were wider - they were just great! As were the rest of the crew during show week. Everything was tip top!”

“Headsets are bae, thank you for buying them Showstoppers, they make such a big difference especially when it comes to mic changes! Thank you to Gem and Ellie for putting up with mics taped to their face the whole show! Although the bed set change was clunky to start with, I think we got into the swing of things eventually. Tech run was also pretty short, which is always good!”

“maybe not being kicked out by security???”

“Band were too loud often (but what can you really do, it's the Annex). Mics sometimes dropped out or kicked in halfway through people speaking, or were noticeably on for some characters and off for others which was a bit weird.”

Final Comments

“I had so much fun doing this show and will miss it dearly. I am so sad that this is one of the last shows I will do with many of the people in the cast. :(“

“Literally loved doing this show and crying that it's over”

“I don't really have any detailed feedback but essentially it was an *outstanding* execution of an *ok* show.”

Comments that, in my opinion, are worth committee taking note of for future shows:

Edited comment about a member of the prod team. I have spoken to this member individually: “if they see that the stage is empty they want to make the most of it, and make decisions without checking with us. Often it is empty for a reason- we are running backwards and forwards putting the band in, we need to hear something without a loud cast getting in the way or something isn't safe yet. I appreciate that it might be frustrating, but they were just very rude about the whole thing.”

“something related to the dance side of the show which I felt less than positive about (though this is NOT in relation to the choreographer/choreography) is that at one point in intensive week, a cast member spoke in an impolite way to those trying to work through a dance based on their feeling that they deserved to practice a dance they were involved in, and they implied we had taken more than enough time to try and improve the dance we were working on. Whilst obviously sitting about and waiting in a show process is nobody's favorite thing, it is an inevitable part of every show process that everyone has to deal with at some point, and it felt unfair to belittle the hard work of people currently practicing something just because they were frustrated that they had not been involved for a period of time in the rehearsal. This was the only point in the show process that I felt we didn't really rise to something or not as a team. The other thing we could have done better as a cast was learn our music, choreography and script sooner, but I would allocate that to collective responsibility.”

“not really a criticism of the show itself, which was amazing, but it was 1) too big for the small slot 2) irresponsible for (almost) all the chorus line prod team to be involved.”