

She Loves Me Show Feedback

Responses:

Audience: 7

Cast: 8

Crew: 1

Production Team: 3

Total: 19

Rehearsal Process:

The majority of the feedback given by the cast highlighted aspects of the rehearsal process as being enjoyable, some saying that it was clear that Nick and Amy were “passionate about the project”, going further to point out Nick’s “effective workshops”, which were greatly received by a number of cast members. Individuals commended Nick and Amy for allowing them to experiment in certain aspects of the musical and taking their ideas on board. The commending didn’t stop there, however, as they were also praised for how they were “brilliant during the snow”, and that they still managed to get a productive rehearsal even in the blistering cold. This is definitely something that everyone involved in this show should be proud, as snow in Southampton is something rarely dealt with and She Loves Me dealt with the situation gracefully.

Direction:

Nearly all of the responses pointed out the fact that both Nick and Amy were very positive in their outlook when it came to show week which some members of the cast thoroughly enjoyed. An audience member highlighted that they felt as though the directors did a great job in directing the cast in a way that made every move seem intentional, and that even when there was no movement, it gave the impression that it was entirely motivated.

However, a few of the cast members felt that Nick and Amy lacked confidence and cohesion in their roles as Directors, as oftentimes there were points in the rehearsal process where Nick and Amy seemed to have had “juxtaposing opinions”. Moreover, there was a running theme in regards to the experience of both directors in their roles. Individuals in the cast felt as though their lack of experience led to the disproportionality of the “stage” in rehearsal periods in comparison to that of the Annex. One cast member gave the example of the curtain and how far back it actually is drawn in the Annex – meaning the cast had to re-block some of the scenes very late in the process to fit with it. Furthermore, one individual felt as though the directors tried to do what “they thought they were ‘supposed to do’”, rather than what they wanted to do.

To contrast the aforementioned positivity of Nick and Amy in the run up to show week, one individual cited that there was an air of negativity. They attributed this to a lack of organization throughout the rehearsal process, but also admit that it was occasionally perpetuated by members of the cast. This was later solved as I was made aware by the cast of the negative atmosphere, with the production team learning from this, helping to create a better, more positive outlook.

Musical Direction:

The musical directors were given massive credit in the responses. They appreciated James’ vocal technique and “attentiveness to the performance of each some”. There was, however, an apparent

split between the cast on the way in which James chose to teach the solo numbers, with some appreciating the method and others stating that they would have preferred a note-bashing technique over learning by James singing at them. The cast felt as though James and Ben were not working as cohesively as they had wished a pair of Musical Directors to do. Stating that James had taken the role of 'backseat driver' whilst Ben was conducting and the both of them having differing views on how songs should have been sung.

Most responses thanked Toby for his help as rehearsal pianist throughout the process, though they pointed out that the communication that the rest of the production had with Toby wasn't as great as it could be, with his lateness delaying the start of rehearsals sometimes.

Choreography:

The cast praised Allan for the simplicity of his choreography, which meant that it was not very hard for the cast members to get to grips with the moves. The execution of Romantic Atmosphere was praised by the audience, as well as the dance in the restaurant scene. However, the cast felt as though Allan had not fulfilled his role as choreographer to the best of his ability, that the choreography could have been 'a lot more advanced' to fit the capabilities of the cast and that his lack of preparation before rehearsals was mirrored in what he had produced.

Production:

Both cast and audience members felt as though the production element of the show was splendid, with one individual stating that Charlie's hair and costumes were 'the highlight of the show experience'. The producers were highly praised for how they were constantly on top of everything, with Naomi and Elly offering great help to this element of this show. The set looked great and everything was neat and organized amongst the group! Very little criticism was given on the production of the show apart from being able to interact with a few more props while the cast were background acting.

Tech:

Praise for the tech was mainly in regards to the way the set looked and how they managed to achieve the aesthetic in such a small amount of time. They were also applauded for taking initiative after the snow had ruined scheduling by enlisting help from other members of StageSoc and being supportive of the cast and production team through the stressful time. However, an issue was raised about the communication between the technical and production sides of the show. An issue was raised about whether the members of StageSoc actually knew what the set design looked like, as one member of the production team felt like had they not been there, a completely different set would have been produced.

Furthermore, one individual felt as though the tech run was not as productive as it could have been, stating that they 'didn't seem to actually get any tech done', and were subsequently sent home after just a few hours. They believed that this was the reason why the dress run and initial performances were not as smooth as they had wished them to have been.

Other Comments:

Firstly, the discipline of the cast was also raised in this section, with members of the production team believing that the cast could have done more to ensure that they were ready by intensive week, with some people not being off-book by Christmas, as said.

Secondly, a few members of the cast members felt as though the production team had lacked in the sense of teamwork that is essential to a show like this. They pointed out that the in-the-open undermining and disagreements between members of the production team made the company feel uncomfortable at times, which isn't something that individuals feel they have signed up for.

Lastly, a reoccurring theme in this section of the feedback was the show's unsuitability for a 'main show' slot. The show was critiqued for not having enough use of the ensemble, in a section of the Showstoppers' calendar which has been reserved for a heavy use of ensemble. Furthermore, the unequal gender dynamics in the show was pointed out, with one individual asking: 'does this show even pass the Bechdel test?' The ratio of male to female members who were lead and ensemble were mentioned as being striking and not what they wanted for the society.