

# The Trail to Oregon Show Feedback

## **Overview:**

- There were 8 responses in total, 4 cast members and 4 prod team members.

## **Direction (positives):**

- One cast member felt that, “great effort was made to make us feel incredibly comfortable in the skin of our characters and know the ins and out of all the show, which really helped us improv!”
- A number of people also commented on how Phoebe and Ollie worked well together and, “blended in the choreography really well with blocking.”
- Another cast member noted that, “It was minimal in a good way, I enjoyed the blocking, especially for Speed Run and You Gotta Go! There was a lot of support for me as a new comer.”
- In general, cast and prod team members alike were impressed with the direction.

## **Direction (negatives):**

- One cast member felt that, “it would have been nice if sightlines had been considered earlier on” to prevent the need for blocking alterations later in the process.
- The same cast member also thought that, “the deep character approach didn’t fit the nature of the show” but they appreciated that sometimes this is necessary.
- A member of the prod team felt that Phoebe’s job to be a point of contact across all areas of production was lost sight of and that this meant, “members of the production team were spoken down to frequently as though employees not colleagues.”
- They also mentioned that, “should Phoebe endeavour to direct again she must seriously reconsider her treatment of her production team members, as unfortunately, this time, she had it very wrong.”

## **Musical Direction (positives):**

- One cast member praised how, “We smashed through all the songs so quickly and drilled them a lot that I was very confident with all musical aspects.”
- Most responses highlighted Ben’s patience and were grateful for the amount of support they received.
- One prod team member thought that it was, “vocally one of the best shows from showstoppers in a while.”

## **Musical Direction (negatives):**

- The only thing that one cast member felt could have been improved was, “more focus on vocal technique.”
- There were no other areas of improvement.

## **Choreography (positives):**

- One cast member said how the choreo, “was well taught & made simple enough for me to do whilst looking awesome.”

- Another felt that it was, “nice simple choreography that perfectly suited the style of the show and was easy for us cast members to pick up.”
- All round, lots of praise for the choreography.

#### **Choreography (negatives):**

- A member of the cast felt that it was, “perhaps sometimes too simple and repetitive considering how much time we had rehearsing.”
- A prod team member thought, “there was scope within the show to do more with the choreography for this show and have it be more style appropriate.”
- Other than this, there were no other criticisms of the choreography.

#### **Production (positives):**

- Everyone was generally very complimentary about the production of the show, several people mentioning how hard they felt Abbie had worked in particular.
- One cast member also mentioned how, “it was nice to get reviewers come in Edinburgh.”

#### **Production (negatives):**

- A cast member thought, “more of a focus on flyering would have been better. I realise motivation for it was hard coz we sold quite well but that won’t happen every year and it’s good to get into good habits as a society.”
- They also said how they, “didn’t appreciate that the producers left so soon after the show ended, leaving mostly cast member to sort out the van and props and costume that was going in it.”
- Another cast member mentioned that, “Victoria appeared to have a very small role as an AP, and I feel like myself and some of the others didn’t appreciate the fact that, during the rehearsal process, she only came down for the fun days rather than for some of the rehearsals themselves as Abbie and Gaby often were.”
- A member of the prod team felt that there were some major issues with the production of the show. They said how, “there was a lack of communication from the producers to the creatives which would have significantly improved had producers been present within the rehearsal period or there been weekly update meetings of some kind so we as a team could have discussed what exactly is going on.”
- The same prod team member also felt that they, “had to step in and take over the role as coordinator for the producers and take on other roles and tasks which were above what I had signed up for and/or expected from the process originally.”
- They thought that, “for the future it needs to be made a rule that all producers are back for a certain number of days throughout the rehearsal process or available via Skype to have a proper prod team meeting to keep updated on EXACTLY what is going on. There also needs to be a clear organiser of the producers set from the start and significantly better communication throughout the whole process.”

#### **Tech (positives):**

- A cast member stated that it, “was great, simple enough to transfer to different venues - especially good at The Other Palace.”

- Someone else mentioned how cool the, “colours for different characters” were.

**Tech (negatives):**

- No one had any points of improvement for the technical side of the show.

**General Feedback:**

- One cast member mentioned how, “the Other Palace was amazing, what a cool experience, thanks so much for making that happen!”
- Another said that they wanted to, “particularly praise Phoebe for having the foresight to see that the show would be so suited to the Fringe.”
- Someone else thought that, “it needs to be stated that the Tours officer or show liaison for the Edinburgh show MUST be available in Southampton at least twice throughout the rehearsal process in order to carry out effective liaison meetings! If this is not possible then specific set up Skype meetings should occur!”
- A prod team member also thought that, “Edinburgh on the whole could really do with a production liaison/coordinator to iron out any issues - even if this ends up being someone already on the prod team - just because it’s such a big project and keeping everyone updated is a really hard task.”