



Be inspired by amateur  
theatre

**Society** : Younger Generation  
**Production** : Colourama  
**Date** : 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
**Venue** : Harlequin Theatre Redhill  
**Report by** : Tony Sweeney

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## Show Report

### General

Younger Generation continues to deliver on its mission to give young people the opportunity to try their hand at musical theatre and for their audiences to see the talent of the future develop and grow before our eyes year on year. As usual the show is a series of scenes built around a theme. This year the theme was colour, using a range of music to provide some excellent entertainment. The group also shows real development in their young charges with individuals showing real growth both in terms of confidence and in technical ability.

Displaced from their usual venue in Croydon they not only faced the challenge of a new venue but also significant a drop in numbers of both performers and the audience which did have a dramatic effect on the talent available and the quality of the subsequent performances.

With a range of individuals on show from real beginners to the fairly experienced we also saw a mix bag of talent but everyone tried hard. The underlying philosophy of no stars underlines this. The levels of, almost palpable, anxiety among those new to the experience dissipates as they gain more experience and confidence on stage and develop into well rounded performers. So they not only develop theatre skills but also real self confidence which will benefit them for life.

### Players

With some 44 performers with a wide range of skills it would be impossible to go through every part of the show but as usual there were some real highlights which should be both recognised and applauded.

### Chicago routine

Three young ladies recreated a scene from Chicago with some great singing and with two of them dancing very much in the style of the time. This was an exceptional routine by some really talented performers.

### Love Shack

This was an excellent ensemble piece which was a real spectacle of musical theatre.

### Fields of Gold

This was a real highlight of the afternoon a young lady with the perfect voice for the song sang it brilliantly. The two very competent ballet dancers gave an excellent display and their performance complimented both the song and the singer giving it a memorable feel.

### Chapel of Love

Opening act two with a spectacular wedding scene where the whole cast played a part in projecting the spectacle. Good singing and real stage craft made it a moment to remember.

### **I feel good James Brown**

A young man gave us a real feel of James Brown with some strong singing with real soul to boot. Not so much an impersonation more a tribute this was excellent.

### **Purple Rain**

We were treated to an excellent performance with 6 really good dancers giving a great display.

### **Tap routine**

An excellent tap routine showed the range of dancing skills available and these were transformed into a great moment.

### **Happy**

The soloist sang well giving the song real punch.

### **Stomp**

This routine used buckets and cans as drums in what proved an excellent routine with a number of players keeping perfect time to give the number punch.

### **Single girls**

This was another high energy number with some excellent dancing and movement to recreate the iconic video.

### **True Colours**

The song chosen to close the show built up slowly with an excellent singer leading the charge. This was a great way to end i.e. on a high and brought all the elements of the cast together in a final crescendo.

### **Director**

Trudi Payne has directed so many of these shows it must be second nature to her. Her approach definitely gets the best out of her performers and always delivers an excellent and entertaining show. All the elements were weaved together well and given this was not their usual venue that is a major achievement.

### **Musical Director**

Neil Shrimpton provided the music which really supported the singers and reinforced the dancing to give us a really good musical theatre experience.

### **Stage Management**

Having a custom built theatre always adds a certain polish to proceedings. The management of entrances and exits was first class with the pace flowing quite naturally and keeping the show moving along nicely.

### **Sound**

Generally the sound levels worked well but at the performance I saw there were one or two problems with radio mics. A young girl tried by could not overcome the problem of projection without an electronic aid which was unfortunate.

### **Lighting**

The lighting was used well and the effects during the neon session worked really well. Clearly the lighting played a key part in the shows overall impact.

### **Make-up**

The make up worked well not too much as to distract from the performances but sufficient to give the performers presence.

### **Set Design**

As the main requirement is to accommodate a large dancing chorus an open stage is the best was to cope with the demands.

### **Props**

All the props were to hand and well used adding to each song as needed.

### **Costumes**

We saw some really striking costumes which enhanced every segment of the show. The Muppet costume for "It's not easy being green" worked really well to introduce that particular segment. Those for "fields of gold" similarly worked to reinforce the on stage action.

### **Programme**

The programme is very much in the house style the group have developed over the years and gave a list of the segments. I was surprised that every song wasn't listed but with so many that might prove a problem but would reinforce the audiences memory of what was on show.

### **Front of house**

The front of house function was provided by the theatre in a very professional manner. A large lobby with refreshment facilities made the wait for the doors to open a comfortable one.

**Tony Sweeney**  
**Regional Representative**  
**NODA London**