



The Glamorgan Drama League Glammies 2023-24 Moderator's Report

Compiled from the reports submitted by the GDL appraisal team.
Moderator's own comments are clearly indicated.

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| Name of play | Treasure Island |
| Name of Company | PODS |
| Where/when performed | The Paget Rooms, Penarth 23-25 March 2023 |
| Intro | <p>Appraiser 1: A warm welcome waited for us as usual in the Paget Rooms. We were warmly greeted by Wendy and shown to our seats, we were positioned quite far back which meant we could appreciate the whole stage without struggling.</p> <p>The atmosphere the open set and the smoke effect and superb lighting created set the mood for the production very nicely.</p> <p>My only criticism of the venue is the seating, for such a long play it became a little uncomfortable and I did notice towards the end of both acts that people were fidgeting which can take attention from the action on the stage. I appreciate that there is nothing the society can do about this.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: A return to an old haunt, and I was looking forward to this production, which promised to be sumptuous, involving a large cast and multiple scenes and locations. On the night I attended there was a large audience, which was great to see, and I was particularly impressed by the lovely, colourful programme, full of information about the play, and with cast biographies which I always enjoy reading</p> <p>Appraiser 3: As always, lovely greeting from the FOH team from PODS. I was intrigued to see this production as I was not sure whether this was going to be play, pantomime or musical. After seeing it, I'm still not sure. For me it turned out to be a mish-mash of all three.</p> |
| Production | <p>Appraiser 1: I have never seen Treasure Island in any form on stage and PODs handled this very wordy and physical play very well indeed. The scene changes were handled incredibly well with sea shanties covering them which was very effective.</p> <p>Being such a wordy play, I did feel that in some places the pace was lost slightly but in general the actors kept the audience engaged. Maybe a little creative editing of the script might have helped this.</p> <p>Overall, PODS brought Treasure Island to the Paget rooms with their usual high production and acting standards. A very engaging and enjoyable production brought to the stage by a very experienced company. Well done all.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: This was a lovely production, fast moving and pacey, with plenty going on, a lovely set which was very adaptable to the various scenes it conveyed. This must have involved plenty of activity backstage! The cast did well and there were some lovely performances. As a project for a first-time director, it must have been quite a challenge, and risen to admirably.</p> |
| Presentation | |
| <i>Set</i> | <p>Appraiser 1: The set as very well put together, serving as an inn, the ship, the island and many other locations, with the changes carried out efficiently by the back stage crew as well as cast. I liked the creation of the two stockades on the island, as well as the upper level where the ship's wheel was located.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: The stage was open when we arrived and immediately made a</p> |

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| | <p>great impression, it really set the scene as a spectacular almost West-End production. The music playing also gave a great atmosphere. The multi-levelled acting area as well as using the apron to place barrels and all sorts of sea-going accoutrements was great and throughout the the play, changes of scene were done by the actors in costume, half-lit and sing a shanty were excellent touches. The design as a whole worked well with small changes such as ragged curtains, placement of the wheel etc, doing a good job</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Upon entering the hall, the audience were greeted by an open set and what a set indeed, extremely well thought out and extremely functional.</p> <p>I always love the use of levels and depth and because of the clever way the set was constructed and dressed for each scene you knew instantly where you were meant to be, be it a pub, the docks, a ship, a forest or a barricade. The use of the front of the stage for narration was very nice and offered yet another level. The set was and must be one of the best and functional sets I have seen on an amateur stage.</p> <p>Tim Tyson gave us the right look for this show which matched my expectations in every way.</p> |
| <i>Design</i> | <p>Appraiser 1: The design of the show instantly transported the audience back in time to the days of pirates and swashbuckling, the clever use of levels and scenery helped the audience to be taken to each location with ease.</p> <p>Nothing jarred as modern, a lot of thought and care from the company had obviously been taken to create the right atmosphere and appearance. Well done to the creative team and stage crew for the fluidity of the scene changes, all covered by song, this was always well executed and felt like a natural part of the show. Well done all.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: The set was very well dressed for the 18th century period in which the play was set with foliage draped in at appropriate times, and plenty of little things to convey the move from the inn, to the ship, to the island, and then back to the ship again.</p> |
| <i>Costume</i> | <p>Appraiser 1: A mixed bag here. Some really good costumes that fitted the character and the times. Others that looked a little thrown together. Captain Smollett looked great, appropriately the smart gentleman captain as did Dr Livesey. Squire Trelawney however, rather scruffy with a wig that might have been appropriate if it hadn't been 'roughed up' and had a wild wavy top. It was very funny but was it appropriate to the 'drama' that, I think, this is supposed to be? Because immediately you get into "Panto" mode. His breeches instead of ending just below the knee, were so far down that his white socks were exposed by accident.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: The costumes, designed by Andy Bradshaw were excellent.</p> <p>Each costume suited every character, nothing looked out of place for the time period and enhanced the production. Maybe a little more dirt on the Pirates clothing could have enhanced the difference between them and the gentle folk, but that is nit picking.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: All very appropriate to the period, some very fancy pirate costumes, as well as for Jim Hawkins, and the ship's officers. This must have been quite a difficult play to costume given the number of characters, and the wardrobe people did an excellent job. I did think Squire Trelawney's wig was rather unfortunate though.</p> |
| <i>Makeup</i> | <p>Appraiser 1: All appropriate to the characters and effectively applied - Silver's look was very effective, as well as Ben Gunn's, amongst others. The only thing that was a bit distracting was the painting of beards on some of the women playing pirates. I thought that this was a bit too "Life of Brian" - there was no reason why there couldn't have been other female pirates in the</p> |

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| | <p>crew aside from Anne Bonny.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Here I have a real problem. Somehow, people think that everyone, especially the lower classes were dirty and of course they were. However, they built up that dirt to a sort of patina, they didn't look as if they'd been working under their car and had got smudges of oil on their faces. And if their faces were dirty then their hands and arms were even more so. Silver's make up was good but had what seemed to me to be a black smudge on his forehead. I saw him later and realised that it was an elaborate south seas type tattoo. Which was great but from where I was sitting it looked like a smudge. You have to make sure you are seeing what the audience sees and not what you see in the dressing room mirror. The doctor and the captain and the women were all good and appropriate.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: The make-up suited the time period and looked natural. Maybe a little more dirt on the pirates to distinguish them from the gentler folk might have brought another dimension, but again that is nit picking.</p> <p>Overall, the makeup was to a high standard. I especially loved Long John Silver's face tattoo</p> |
| <i>Props</i> | <p>Appraiser 1: The props were all in keeping with the time period and enhanced the believability of the production.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: All props authentic to the period and used well. The ship's wheel was impressive, and the treasure itself was appropriately glittery! I also liked the parrot!</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Some very good props used well by the actors although the problem of fire-arms being fired and off stage effects is always an issue for all of us, but I thought it was done as well as could be expected.</p> |
| <i>Lighting</i> | <p>Appraiser 1: Excellent throughout. Well designed and cued giving a great atmosphere to the whole production.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: The lighting design was superb and helped to transport the audience member to the right location within the story. The use of the spotlight for the narration was well executed along with the different colours of light for the different scenes. The lighting added just the right amount of atmosphere without being overpowering. Well done.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: The lighting effectively conveyed the atmosphere of the piece, with subtle changes to provide contrast between the various locations.</p> |
| Music/Musical Direction (where appropriate) | <p>Appraiser 1: I enjoyed very much the scene changes with the live singing, this again added to the whole experience and was very haunting. Philip A J May did make me smile when he started to sing. Great work</p> <p>Appraiser 2: This was particularly impressive, the whole cast singing sea shanties as scenes were changed, everyone entering into the spirit and providing very tuneful interludes. Well done to the cast for learning these so well, in addition to all their lines!</p> |
| <i>Sound/background music</i> | <p>Appraiser 1: This was particularly impressive, the whole cast singing sea shanties as scenes were changed, everyone entering into the spirit and providing very tuneful interludes. Well done to the cast for learning these so well, in addition to all their lines!</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Excellent choices of music with a great sea shanty being sung throughout.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: The background atmospheric sounds were handled brilliantly, from the opening theme to the perfect timing of the musket fire. The levels from where I was sat were perfectly set and helped set the right</p> |

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| | atmosphere for each scene. |
| Direction | <p>Appraiser 1: What a complicated show to direct and Jay Excell handled this very well indeed. The grouping of each scene was superb and the whole stage was used. One of my bug bears with direction is unnecessary movement and this director moved the cast perfectly around the stage with ease, there were no masking problems either. Treasure Island had in my opinion a very competent director at the ships wheel who knew exactly how he wanted the production to look and to be received by the audience. One thing that I always hope for when choosing a play to direct is that the right play speaks to me and from what I experienced watching and from reading Jay's piece in the programme is that "Treasure Island" spoke to him. This always means the director puts that little bit of extra love into the production. Congratulations Jay.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Big congratulations to Jay on his first directing venture for P.O.D.S., and a major challenge to take on carried off extremely well. He was able to ensure pace and atmosphere in the production, handling the very large cast well, and ensuring smooth transition between the scenes, helped by the musical interludes. A lot of plates to balance all at once!</p> <p>Appraiser 3: I understand this is the first production for Jay and what a mammoth first play to take on and congratulations to her doing so. There was a lot to admire, just the sheer logistics of organising such a big cast and crew. The production moved pretty smoothly but I come back to my original question, what is this, a pantomime, play or musical? Having read the script I realise that it is very much a play in fact a high drama. As mentioned above there were a lot of times when it drifted into panto. The scene in the jungle when Ben Gunn secretly disposes of various pirates. Pure panto, except what makes it work in panto is the audience participation, with loads of little kids screaming "It's behind you!" Without that it just became silly. Sadly, because of this confusion the audience were not sure how to react, so when there were dramatic parts such as when they conspiring on board and killed the dissenting sailor, the tension was not there</p> |
| Choreography (where appropriate) | <p>Appraiser 1: The main choreography of this production was in three places.</p> <p>1st The sword fights were handled extremely well, the cast looked very comfortable wielding their swords around the stage.</p> <p>2nd I am not sure this is choreography, but the timing of the musket fire sound effects was beautifully handled with the shot being fired and the recoil of the cast member perfectly timed. Impressive.</p> <p>3rd I must mention the fluidity of the scene changes, these in themselves were a joy to watch. It was like watching a dance and to be covered by live singing really made the scene changes an integral part of this highly polished production</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Not choreography of such but I was impressed by the movement within the play, with scene changes carried out efficiently. Also the cutlass wielding by Black Dog deserves a mention, and the impressive and climactic sword fight between Captain Smolett and Long John Silver</p> |
| Performances: | |
| General | <p>Appraiser 1: The cast gelled generally very well I thought, and had obvious faith in the production, giving it their all in both the acting and singing stakes. One or two performances adopted maybe a less serious tone than others, leading to some unevenness in style. The smaller roles were all played convincingly, everyone having their moment to shine, and all were aware of the need to maintain pace and projection.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: PODS productions are always set to a high standard and "Treasure Island" did not disappoint on many levels.</p> |

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| | As mentioned before the only small issue I had once or twice was pace but in general this was a very entertaining production with many memorable moments and performances |
| Teamwork | <p>Appraiser 1: The teamwork was impressive, with no one seeking to upstage others, and working well as a unit during the scene changes etc.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: The teamwork must be one of the most cohesive and slick pieces of stagecraft I have seen in a long time. Everyone knew exactly where they were meant to be and what they were meant to be doing at all times, which added to the polish of the entire production. Well done all</p> <p>Appraiser 3: The cast worked pretty well together and as mentioned above the flow of the play was maintained</p> |
| Char 1: Jemmy Rathbone played by: Mike Freeman | <p>Appraiser 1: Mike always is a joy to watch on stage, even though this was just a small role he brought energy and enthusiasm to his performance, even though he was killed early on I noticed Mike later in some of the scenes playing a generic sailor and in the scene changes which only goes to prove what a good team member he is.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Mike started the play off with a serious, sincere and committed performance, setting the tone for the scene that followed. He convincingly conveyed the fearfulness and desperation of the character. Having been dispatched so early on, he provided stalwart support as background for the rest of the play, including manning the wheel.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: The cast worked pretty well together and as mentioned above the flow of the play was maintained</p> |
| Char 2: Israel Hands played by: Hayden Manuell | <p>Appraiser 1: The sly Israel, two-faced at one time the obedient sailor but then plotting with Silver and threatening Jim. Nasty character played well by Hayden</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Hayden is always good to watch on stage, I enjoyed his characterisation of Israel Hands very much, Hayden has such a relaxed way of acting which enables the audience members to get to know the character, I especially liked how the card game was handled, showing another devious level to Israel. Well done</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Hayden portrayed the slyness, the nastiness and villainy of this character very well I thought, as well as some effectively dark humour in his card playing scene. He conveyed genuine threat when, injured, menacing Jim Hawkins in the second Act, and was certainly convincing as a member of the pirate crew.</p> |
| Char 3: Justice Death played by: Melissa Rabaiotti | <p>Appraiser 1: Melissa really went for it in this part as a male pirate and never lost character, convincingly portraying a member of the pirate crew. I do think she would have done just as well if she had been able to play it as a female pirate, as the painted beard was a bit distracting.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: It's always difficult having a woman playing a man's part especially such a macho one "Justice Death" the pirate! I think it definitely helps if you can lower your voice. Melissa did her best to be fierce but I'm afraid it all added to the impression that this was a panto.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Melissa brought Justice Death to life with ease, staying in character even when she was not being spoken to, this is one of the things I look for in an actor and Melissa achieved this very well indeed. A nasty, lively sneering pirate, full of energy, a pleasure to watch.</p> |
| Char 4: Black Dog played by: Logan Excell | <p>Appraiser 1: Logan for me was the quintessential pirate, nasty, selfish and just the right amount of swagger. Again, he remained in character even when he was just crossing the stage, not being flustered even when his hat fell off, instead he swaggered on the stage and grunted in character. A great performance from this young actor. Well done.</p> |

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| | <p>Appraiser 2: A distinctive and convincing presence on stage and co-ordinating well with the other pirate characters. Maybe slightly less at ease in his scene menacing Billy Bones in the first Act, though no one can fault his impressive ability to wield a cutlass!</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Logan was enthusiastic pirate and put his all into being the fierce and macho. The fight scene with Billy Bones was good and he was always in character. My only advice would be sometimes come down from that high in order to give the character some light and shade</p> |
| <p>Char 5: Anne Bonny played by: Kelly Thompson</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: Kelly played the notorious Bonny with good attack and enthusiasm she was very much the pirate although there was not much to show that her character was any different from all the rest of the nasty pirates. But a good steady performance</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Kelly brought a new dimension with her Irish accent, which contrasted nicely with the West Country accent from the rest of the cast. Every scene was full of energy and enthusiasm and Kelly looked like she was enjoying being on stage. Kelly brought light and shade to Anne, playing her not on one level which made the character very rounded and believable. Well done</p> <p>Appraiser 3: An impressive performance from Kelly, convincingly playing a determined female pirate, holding her own against the men of the crew. Loyal to her shipmates, and fully prepared to get her hands just as dirty when the need arises. A very effective presence and carried off with panache.</p> |
| <p>Char 6: George Merry played by: Rob Jenkins</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: George Merry/Beggar - A solid, believable performance from Rob as Merry – a stalwart member of the crew, providing more of an unshowy but committed performance, loyal to his fellow crew members. An effective member of the pirate team. And then as the beggar, more of a slimy, cowardly character, also convincingly played in his scene with Silver.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: A good performance by Rob of the dissenting pirate always questioning Silver and vying for the job of captain.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Rob was great to watch as George, the Pirate who wanted to rush into everything and be in charge but was put in his place by his peers. Again, a carefully balanced performance giving us as the audience enough insight into the character that we felt we really got to know George. Rob like all the other pirates did not break character even when he was just on stage. A great performance with just enough swagger and nastiness to make George believable. Well done</p> |
| <p>Char 7: Job O'Brien played by: Ruth Glynn</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: To complete the team of pirates Ruth brought us a very believable portrayal of Job. Nicely balanced again with just the right amount of swagger, I especially liked how Ruth played opposite Hayden in the card game, showing the funny yet devious side of the character, a joy to watch. Nicely done.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: A nice performance from Ruth, engendering some laughs alongside Israel Hands during the card game. Never losing character, she threw herself into the part of the pirate very well, though again I think there is no reason why she couldn't have been a female pirate.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: As mentioned it's always difficult having a women play a man. Especially when they only have one scene and a few lines to establish a character, but Ruth did a pretty good Job (pun intended, sorry).</p> |
| <p>Char 8: Captain James Flint played by: Jay Excell</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: Jay played Flint with real attack and made the most of this short cameo role. Well done</p> <p>Appraiser 2: I very much enjoyed this performance, especially the way that Jay commanded the scene changes with his haunting singing. This brought another dimension to the production and was a well thought</p> |

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| | <p>out way to cover the changes.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: A commanding presence at the start of the play – powerfully portrayed and a force to be reckoned with. His confidence and authority made one realise how he had become to be captain – utterly villainous and heartless in his dealings with Jemmy Rathbone. And having met his own end, it was nice to see Jay participating as part of his ensemble for the rest of the show, as well as with the songs.</p> |
| <p>Char 9: Jim Hawkins played by: Charlotte Rees</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: A sincere, committed performance from Charlotte who carried off her playing of Jim Hawkins exceedingly well. Natural and believable as the narrator, and conveying the wide-eyed wonderment, the adventurous spirit, and the sense of fair play and loyalty to her friends and family. A nice rapport built up with Graham as Long John Silver – and suitably brave and frightened when being menaced by Israel Hands.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: This was really well done by Charlotte. You believed that she was a young boy her movements and voice were good. One of the few characters that I was able to empathise with she had the audience on her side from the start. Well sustained and enjoyable to watch.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: What a truly wonderful experience watching Charlotte bring Jim to life and she did it with such confidence. An excellent performance filled with light and shade, every word delivered clearly and with thought behind it, making it look as if Jim was thinking and remembering the story from memory. Charlotte stayed in character throughout, also giving us great facial expression, which added extra depth to Jim, this actor needs to be extremely proud of her performance, it is one that I will remember for a very long time indeed. Well done</p> |
| <p>Char 10: Mr Hawkins played by: Alex Wilson</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: A small but well delivered role played by Alex, nice characterisation filled with confidence. Nicely done.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Mr Hawkins/Captain Smollett - A serious, committed and believable performance from Alex in both his roles, and particularly impressive as the pragmatic, noble Captain Smollett. Sensible, brave and fearless, with an authoritative delivery that commanded respect – great interplay with the rest of the cast, and a fantastic sword fight scene with Graham as Long John Silver</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Mr Hawkins/Captain Smollett - The initial short role as Mr Hawkins Alex was fine and then one of the central roles as Captain Smollett played the steady, honest, capable captain who finds himself in a bizarre and precarious position with just the right amount of gravitas that the role required. Good solid performance</p> |
| <p>Char 11: Mrs Hawkins played by: Emma Dennett</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: Good steady performance making the most of this small role.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Another small but very thought out and rounded performance delivered with confidence by Emma, I truly believed she was really scared when the pirates invaded her bar. Vocally clear again this character was nicely portrayed. Well done</p> <p>Appraiser 3: A believable performance from Emma, anxious about her son, and committed to her life at the inn. Nice interplay with the rest of the cast and suitably apprehensive of all the ne'r do wells entering her premises!</p> |
| <p>Char 12: Billy Bones played by: Nigel Crick</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: A lovely performance from Nigel as the shifty Billy Bones, sly and apprehensive, determined to survive but ultimately doomed. He portrayed the rascality of the character very well and had some lovely interplay with Charlotte and Jim in the earlier scenes.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Nigel established his character immediately and maintained it as the fearsome but desperate pirate.</p> |

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| | <p>Appraiser 3: I loved this character and Nigel brought him to life with confidence and ease. The devious pirate, out for himself was beautifully brought to the stage and was very believable. Vocally strong Nigel projected every word to the audience, he didn't miss a beat. Nigel has great stage presence and should be very proud of his achievement in this production. Great work</p> |
| <p>Char 13: Dr Livesey played by: Richard Griffiths</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: Another smaller role confidently played by Richard, bringing a sense of calm in his scenes. Volume and diction were good from where I was sitting. I especially liked the way the character stood up to the pirates. A good confident performance.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Maybe slightly stiff in the early scenes, Richard grew into his role as the play went on, and provided a stable presence and support for Jim and the other characters, especially during the scenes in the stockade.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Richard was fine as the country doctor on a big adventure. Very much the country gentleman he played the role with the right amount of stiffness tempered with a concern for Jim.</p> |
| <p>Char 14: Blind Pew played by: Chris Glynn</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: Chris looked the part and generally had a good characterisation as the evil visually challenged Pugh. I thought though, when searching for Bones he was too quick and could have spent time building up the tension. This is probably down to the director. Otherwise, a steady performance</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Chris was an absolute joy to watch, how he saw where he was going in the blindfold I will never know. I enjoyed the devious antics of this character and the many levels Chris brought to his performance. I sat amazed at how he manoeuvred around the stage. A confident performance brought by an actor who knew how to engage with the audience even though he was blindfolded. A truly enjoyable performance</p> <p>Appraiser 3: A lovely, villainous turn from Chris as the dangerous, murderous Blind Pew. Chris conveyed the blindness of the character very well, as well as his malevolence - and you could well believe why he was so feared by Billy Bones and Jim Hawkins! Really nice participation with the ensemble as well.</p> |
| <p>Char 15: Squire Trelawney played by: Philip A.J. May</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: Phil certainly threw himself into this part and clearly enjoyed himself as the bluff but well-meaning Squire. He did have a tendency to shout his lines directly at the audience rather than engaging with the other characters. Perhaps more fluidity of delivery, and more light and shade, would have been less jarring, and would have helped him in his interactions and his rapport with Dr Livesey, Captain Smollett and the rest.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: This idiosyncratic performance lifted the whole show with Phil going 'over the top' as the daft adventure obsessed Squire Trelawney. Much as I enjoyed his performance it emphasised once again the drift between drama and panto. Nevertheless, well done Phil!</p> <p>Appraiser 3: I have to say this must be one of the best performances I have seen from Phil in a long time. Phil projected a confidence in the role which only comes when Phil himself is at home with the script. Cast perfectly as the bumbling squire, Phil needs to be very proud of his work in this production. Only one small thing, remember to stay in character even when you are waiting at the side of the stage, apart from that Phil gave a great performance. Well done.</p> |
| <p>Char 16: Beggar played by: Rob Jenkins</p> | <p>Appraiser: Rob brought life to every character he played in the production and had great stage presence.</p> |
| <p>Char 17: Long John Silver</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: A lovely performance from Graham, who resisted the temptation to go overboard with such an iconic character and presented someone with</p> |

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| <p>played by: Graham Perkins</p> | <p>real light, shade and considerable depth. Capable of quiet, introspective moments, which could then turn on a dime to genuine menace, interactions with Jim Hawkins were superb – Silver showing clear respect to the lad despite their being on opposite sides. Some effectively demonstrated pathos alongside the villainy, and a great sword fight with Captain Smollett.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Long John Silver is an iconic role to play and Graham brought this devious pirate to life with the confidence I have come to expect from this humble but great actor, not a beat was missed, not a line was missed and in true Graham form not an opportunity to milk the character was missed. I went through a range of different emotions watching this performance from liking the character to not liking him to liking him again, all handled beautifully by Graham. His sword fighting was fun to watch and perfect timing with the musket firing. I especially enjoyed the tenderness that came through when acting with Charlotte as Jim, very nicely handled all around by Graham. A Truly exceptional performance, perfectly cast. Very Well Done indeed!</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Graham was perfect as the evil scheming pirate who has a genuine soft spot for the young Jim. Graham managed to achieve the only two-dimensional character in the whole piece. One felt both sympathy and distaste for this rogue. Excellent performance.</p> |
| <p>Char 18: Captain Smollett played by: Alex Wilson</p> | <p>Appraiser: Alex brought us a commanding performance as Captain Smollett, just the right amount of authority. Again, as with most of the cast we were treated to a very well-rounded performance. Diction and volume were clear, and I did not miss a moment. Nicely done</p> |
| <p>Char 19: Tom Morgan played by: Gethin Glynn</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: A smaller role for Gethin but he played it very well bringing this nervous character to life only to be killed for making the wrong (or was it?) decision. A confident performance from this young actor and I hope he goes on to be in other shows in the future. Good job.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: A nice performance by Tom as the doomed Gethin Glynn. Fine projection and sincerity as he resists temptation to join the pirates, his sense of right being his downfall!</p> <p>Appraiser 3: Good steady performance of this cameo role</p> |
| <p>Char 20: Ben Gunn played by: Matthew Lee</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: Brilliant energetic performance by Matthew. Loved his characterisation of the barmy Gunn. The difference was though, was that although Matthew's performance was spirited it was never 'over the top' or drifting into panto. You could believe in this character given the situation that he had been put in. Well done.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Ok what happened, did someone wind the spring up in Matthew in the interval and let him go at the start of act 2. Boundless energy, totally mad and brilliant to watch. Matthew was just bonkers, and the audience lapped it up, I truly believed that Ben had been stranded on the island and had gone completely mad, desperate for a piece of cheese. I loved the way that Ben picked off the pirates in the end. Thank you, Matthew, for a lively, slightly (what am I saying) totally mad, excellent performance that will make me smile for a long time. Extremely well done</p> <p>Appraiser 3: A great performance from Matthew, conveying the insanity of the character without ever going over the top. I loved his sudden glee when given a piece of cheese. A dextrous performance too as Ben leapt about the stage – and lovely interactions with Jim Hawkins. Great ensemble playing too alongside the rest of the characters in the earlier portions of the play.</p> |

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| <p>Char 21: Pirates & Sailors played by: Toby Shewen Ronan Bywater-Lees Adrienne Davy</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: The supporting actors all entered into the spirit of the play very well and never lost character. Their singing was lovely, and they engaged well with the other performers</p> <p>Appraiser 2: As for the supporting actors, well done, you stayed in Character even though you were just either moving set of steering the ship.</p> <p>A job well done by all.</p> |
| <p>Summing up</p> | <p>Appraiser 1: PODS brought us a very well-polished, well directed production which is what I have come to expect over the years, the staging and costumes were amazing, with the production being perfectly cast. Apart from some slight pace issues here and there the show was entertaining and visually engaging.</p> <p>Congratulations to all involved for such a wonderful show.</p> <p>Appraiser 2: Having read the script, I like it. I think it could be a really good swashbuckling adventure with plenty of tension and drama along with the odd comedy. Sadly, however the way it was played meant that it fell between two stools, neither getting the big laughs and audience participation nor building the tensions and emotions of a drama.</p> <p>Appraiser 3: A very enjoyable evening and presentation of a play that must have been a clear challenge to produce. P.O.D.S. go from strength to strength in mounting ever more ambitious productions with spectacular sets and some lovely performances. Only at some points was there a slight unevenness of tone, but the overall aim to present a serious, faithful version of the story was clearly evident. Thanks all for a lovely evening and I look forward to seeing what's next on the agenda!</p> |
| <p>Moderators Report:</p> | <p><u>THE MODERATOR SAID OF "TREASURE ISLAND":-</u></p> <p>By special arrangement, the Director of Treasure Island kindly agreed that my wife and I should attend the Sunday afternoon rehearsal in the spacious room of the local Conservative Club. We would be seeing it very much as a rehearsal without scenery (More of that later). A few characters in costume but mostly without, it mattered not.</p> <p>The action starts off aboard the Pirate ship 'The Walrus' and then changes to various other locations throughout the play, The scene changes most effectively joined by marvellous Sea Shanties being sung by the cast. Amongst the well-chosen cast we saw Red Herring's director Alex Wilson doubling as a credible Captain Smollett and Mr. Hawkins - father of Jim. Speaking of Jim, a girl played young Jim Hawkins - beautifully. She was poignant and yet feisty when needed, well done Charlotte Rees.</p> <p>I really didn't mean to single out anyone in this very large cast, but you cannot ignore Graham Perkins' Long John Silver complete with the late Robert Newton's ability to make those eyes glare! I would also like to mention the Glynn Family, the evil Blind Pugh played by Chris Glynn, his wife Ruth played the pirate Jon O'Brien wonderfully and to complete the family trio playing Tom Morgan was son Gethin Glynn - congratulations to all three. But please note that I include all cast members in my praise for what they achieved in bringing 'Treasure Island' To Penarth.</p> <p>The Director who has seen his vision of this piece come to fruition is Jay Excell who also appeared as Captain Flint. He looked the part and had an impressive death scene too. His son Logan Excell appeared as Black Dog and both are to be highly commended. Indeed, this is the first play Jay has undertaken and certainly bodes well for the future. Excell by name, excel they did.</p> <p>After the show I asked if the Set designer was to hand, he was of course up to his eyes across the road in the Paget Rooms. So, we were taken over to meet Tim Tyson and his team hard at work on the difficult stage in the theatre. I send thanks to Tim for sparing time to explain his vision and to make me realise just how excellent this set design and costumes will be, many having</p> |

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| | <p>been made by Tim himself. So ended a most lovely afternoon in 'Treasure Island'. Thank you all, so much. Gareth Gibbs Moderator The Glammies 2023-24</p> |
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