



NICK BRANNAM  
DIRECTOR | CHOREOGRAPHER

PRODUCTION	<i>Legally Blonde The Musical</i>
COMPANY	Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society
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Even better on stage - Dynamic young cast bring out the best of Legally Blonde *Legally Blonde The Musical* is based on the successful 2001 comedy film of the same name. It tells the story of Elle Woods, a somewhat shallow but lovable college girl, seeking her idea of a utopian life. This includes fantastic-looking nails, a wardrobe straight from the pages of *Vogue* and, of course, the model boyfriend, Warner Huntington III. All seems well until Warner reveals he has other intentions and Elle finds herself enrolling for Harvard Law School to try to win him back.

It makes for good entertainment and I've often wondered how it would transfer to the musical stage. Well, in truth, my opinion is that it makes a far better musical than film.

In this fantastically-lively production, Wood was superbly played by Laura Newborough, who captured the character perfectly in a strong performance with an excellent voice. She was supported brilliantly by a great cast; David Izzo plays Emmett Forrest, the new love interest at Harvard, and Joe Humberstone plays Warner, equally suited to the part.

The show was littered with many other supporting roles: Sally Manning plays the newly-acquired hairdressing friend Paulette Buonufonte with great comedy, a true audience pleaser; there are Elle's three friends, Serena, Margot and Pilar, played by Chloe Ballard, Rhianon Mone and Luannsa Goodman - these three excellently lead an entourage of followers adopting the running theme of Elle's conscience, demonstrating great voices and characters.

Emily Hemmings plays Brooke Wyndham, the defendant on Elle's first trial, and demonstrates unbelievable ability - singing whilst skipping with a rope at top pace, without drawing a breath. Wow.

This was a fast-paced, energetic, slick show, full of talent. Director Nick Brannam and musical director Rachel Glover delivered a fantastic musical, bringing the most out of the show and their young, dynamic company.

Daniel Maskell