

GOLD
50 Golden Years of Music
Poole & Parkstone Musical Theatre Society
Regent Centre
Christchurch
October 2002

P&P'S tribute to the Queen's Jubilee begins with the formality of Zadok the Priest and ends with the razzmatazz of Barnum. Perhaps they can't proclaim, like Phineas T Barnum, that theirs is 'the greatest show on earth' – but for my money they certainly come pretty close.

Each year I think the company have surpassed themselves in their now legendary annual concert, and reached the pinnacle of success, and each year I am proved wrong as they pull yet more surprises out of their box of tricks.

Costumes are glorious, lighting effects fantastic, musical accompaniment – under musical director John Stringer – superb and, above all, every number, every entrance and every exit is accomplished with faultless precision thanks to the disciplined approach of director Joanne Chapman and her assistants Sarah Cooper and Kate Aukett. Whether in the West Side Story, Les Miserables and Miss Saigon excerpts, the pop numbers of Dusty Springfield, the Beatles, Elton John and Boyzone, the brilliant A Capella Tap or the humour of Barry and Freda and TV makeover shows, the company gives 110%, and the result is stunning. Reach For the Stars? They're there already. On November 16 the show will be performed in the former Wessex Hall at Lighthouse, Poole. Please, please don't miss it.

Linda Kirkman
Courtesy of the Bournemouth Daily Echo