



## Event Review: Five Star *Bugsy Malone*

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New York, 1929: a city of shoot-outs and ruthless fighting, where gangsters' molls dance the night away and even hoodlums are mugged. This is the world of *Bugsy Malone*, brought gloriously to life in this year's George Abbot School production.

For sheer, foot-tapping energy, there is no other show in town. Performers from all school years and the Music, Drama and Dance departments, have worked tirelessly to bring this *Bugsy* to life. The result is a spectacle of colour, humour and riotous fun in which splurge guns splatter, custard pies fly and the action spills from the Raynham stage and out into the aisles.

This is a show of heart-stopping tunes, from the wonderful 'I am Talullah' to Fizzy's wistful 'Tomorrow'. Performances are excellent throughout, from the main cast – Bugsy, Fat Sam, Dandy Dan, Talullah and Blousey Brown – to the inspired buffoonery of Fat Sam's gang and the adrenalin of the boxing ring. Ensemble delights – 'Down and Out' being a highlight – are interspersed with moments of solo brilliance, and New York accents are nailed to perfection.

The band, conducted by Mr Hartley, is on top form, playing with superb energy and extracting every ounce of fun and pathos from the score. This, and meticulous choreography, with dancers often occupying every inch of the stage, help create a show which at times feels like a professional production.

Huge credit must go to every student, on stage and behind the scenes, and to Mrs Hunt, Miss Lamb and Mr Hartley and all the other members of staff who have worked so hard to make this *Bugsy* happen.