**Friends Parody Musical Review** – Emma Garland

For anyone who has seen the sitcom, this musical offered a refreshing perspective. Friends is a bit of a staple as it’s been on for so long. Whether you were there for the original, the TV re-runs or you’ve joined for binge-watching, this musical soon had everyone hooked with the return of all our favourite characters. It’s a welcome return from Joey, Rachel, Ross, Phoebe, Monica and Chandler.

Even Gunther makes an appearance! As does Phoebe’s guitar and all the classic romances we came to know! And Janice!! It’s lively and a whistle-stop tour, but light-hearted and ever entertaining. The group spend much of their time in Central Perk where the action is focussed, with each other’s apartments featuring too. I wasn’t quite sure what to expect from a musical parody of Friends, but it was definitely amusing. I’ve not watched Friends for a while, but this soon had me transported back to all the best bits! I was really glad that I watched it.

With all of those oh-so-memorable catchphrases and those pivotal moments, this show is a whistle stop tour of ten seasons. The parody also asks those questions of things that were on your mind that never quite got answered during the show itself, and picks up on those moments of every show that never quite made sense. All the characters we love are brought into the musical, each with songs to match their important storylines. The show cleverly borrows and adapts a few songs from other musicals. I also enjoyed the reflective jokes where characters included awareness of their traits and actions in the songs and stories they were portraying.

It was good to see each character getting their own song about themselves or their situation. This musical element gave it a different feel to the TV sitcom and offered some other nuances that TV is unable to draw on. The actors really captures the essence of each of the characters and this made the whole show work well. Enough was giving to the audience to ensure you were always on to the hooks of storylines, and to remind of the events that were being referred to.

All in the audience enjoyed. It just made you look again at a show you thought you knew really well and could not think any more of. The characters were the same as what we were familiar with, just with songs, some reflection and a lot of humour!

This was definitely worth watching and an enjoyable night out!