

Society : Younger Generation Theatre Group
Production : London is London
Date : Saturday, 1st August 2026
Venue : The Cryer Arts Centre
District : London District 5

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Show Report

It was a pleasure to visit Younger Generation Theatre Group for the first time and enjoy their musical cabaret *London Is London*. Meeting Diane, Keith and Trudy beforehand provided a helpful introduction to the group, and their warm welcome set the tone for an enjoyable afternoon. Their enthusiasm for the society, and the pride they clearly take in the children's achievements, immediately demonstrated the level of commitment that underpins a production of this scale.

Congratulations must first be given to **Trudy Paine** (Director), who, together with **Lauren Mills** and **Joanna Devine** (Assistant Directors), provided the leadership central to the success of this production. Managing a cast of 22 children is a considerable undertaking in itself, but doing so while making thoughtful allowances for a disabled child in a wheelchair added an additional layer of responsibility. Ensuring every child felt included, supported and able to contribute meaningfully was certainly achieved creating a cohesive group who performed with confidence and enjoyment. The structure of the cabaret and the clarity of the staging all reflected the many hours of rehearsal that had clearly been invested behind the scenes.

Neil Shrimpton (Musical Director) offered a varied and wellbalanced selection of music that allowed many cast members to take on solos and featured moments. This inclusive approach ensured that opportunities were shared widely rather than concentrated among the most experienced performers. The musical choices suited the age and ability of the cast, and the accompaniment was consistently well judged, supporting the vocals without overpowering them. The children responded positively to the musical direction, delivering their songs with enthusiasm and clear enjoyment.

Diane RextrewBerry has been a driving force within the society for many years, and this experience was evident once again. Her steady involvement helped keep the production organised and moving in the right direction, providing a reliable backbone to the show's overall structure. Not being busy enough in the role of Producer, Diane also took full responsibility for Costumes. The wide variety of outfits she provided added colour, character and visual impact throughout, helping to define each number and giving the children a strong sense of identity on stage. Her contribution remains a key part of the society's ongoing success and was clearly appreciated by cast and audience alike.

Emma Crozier delivered choreography that was varied, engaging and well suited to the abilities of the cast. The routines offered plenty of movement and interest without ever feeling beyond the children's comfort level. Importantly, Emma ensured the choreography was fully adaptable, making special allowance for the disabled child in a wheelchair so he could participate comfortably and meaningfully. This thoughtful approach allowed him to remain fully integrated within the group, contributing to the overall presentation without compromise. Her work added shape, pace and enjoyment to the production.

Gerry Winter managed the stage with calm, steady control, keeping everything organised behind the scenes and ensuring each change happened when required. With a show involving 22 children, he must have been busy throughout, but his consistent oversight ensured the backstage side of the production ran smoothly. Scene transitions, entrances and exits were handled efficiently, supporting the flow of the cabaret and allowing the cast to focus on their performance. His contribution was an important part of the overall presentation.

There is often a tendency to measure success in youth productions by adult standards and look for 'awardwinning' performances. However, the arts offer far more than simply being on stage. They provide young people with opportunities to develop teamwork, confidence, communication and relationship skills. Today, every child who stepped onto that stage achieved a personal victory. This production was far more than the final performance; it represented the courage to attend rehearsals, the commitment to learning new skills and the willingness to work together as a group — all while having fun!

It is important to recognise the energy, commitment and quality demonstrated by the entire cast. Each child approached their role with focus and enthusiasm, and together they contributed significantly to the success of the production. The costumes, colour and overall spectacle were a pleasure to watch, and it was clear throughout that everyone was fully engaged, enjoying themselves and playing their part in creating a lively and wellpresented cabaret. Their collective effort made a strong impact on the final result.

The cast delivered a varied and enjoyable programme of numbers, each bringing something different to the stage. The creativity shown in the dance and movement routines added interest throughout, and the children's energy and constant smiles made the performance engaging from start to finish. Their combined effort gave the cabaret its pace, colour and sense of fun, and the audience responded warmly to their enthusiasm.

At the end of the performance, I was invited to say a few words to the cast, and it was a pleasure to congratulate them directly on their hard work and enthusiasm. They were reminded that they truly are the next generation of performers, and that being involved onstage already helps to build the skills and confidence that will stay with them for years to come. The hope was expressed that they remain involved, keep enjoying theatre, and continue developing the talents they have already begun to show.

Congratulations once again to everyone at Younger Generation Theatre Group and those directly involved with *London Is London*. This was a thoroughly enjoyable production, delivered with commitment, colour and real enthusiasm from all involved.

I look forward to returning for your future productions.

Des Wilby
Regional Representative
NODA London District 5

