

Event: Murder at the Three Ring Circus
Production Company: AMT Productions
Date: Friday 2nd May 2025
Venue: Ellesmere Port Civic Hall



I had the pleasure to attend my first AMT production last week and what a treat it was. From the moment we arrived at the theatre, we were immersed in the entertainment, the cast were interacting with the audience coming in and with the queue at the bar and there were posters introducing the cast members along with acrobats. A great deal of effort had gone into welcoming the audience and getting everyone in the mood for the show. We were given a flyer with a bar code and some information so that we would all be ready to vote for who we thought the murderer was when the time came. I also want to say how impressive the publicity was for this show, a lot of time had gone into creating a buzz with posters and trailers and the show itself certainly lived up to the hype.

It was lovely to see the auditorium almost full. The set was simple but effective with a circus themed backstage space in red and white strips, a theme that was everywhere, there was no mistaking where we were. The raised circle was a good idea, it helped the audience at the back on the floor seating have a better view of the cast from time to time. Very well done
MATTHEW MANEY & GAETAN BOZA & DAWN TUNNICLIFFE.

The first aspect of the show that struck me and continued to impress me throughout the show was the costumes. These were very impressive and vast in number. From the main cast members who were clearly defined by their costumes to the dancers and performers on the stage. Nothing had been scrimped on. They were bright, colourful, lavish and incredibly detailed, just stunning. Some of the stand out props were the dragon and the orange bird. Massive congratulations to the props and costume team LYNDA MANEY, DAWN TUNNICLIFFE & RUBY FLANAGAN KURESHI

The second aspect was the lighting and sound, this was incredible, every part of this was executed right on cue and enhanced the whole production from beginning to end. The music really set the mood for the show and the individual scenes and songs. Amazing job DEREK BOSELEY, MAX WILSON, JAMES HARRIS & HENRY SANDERSON. I loved how the songs became a part of the show, the choice of songs was spot on for each of the stories and helped move the production along, well done to LAURIE WARING on her work on the music.

Another aspect that blew me away was the choreography. So many actors, dancers and acrobats and all perfectly in time with each other. Bravo to And all the cast involved in creating a flawless piece of choreographed theatre, especially ABIGAIL BRADBURY Overall the acting standard was very high, all of the cast were secure in their lines and displayed a range of emotions during their songs and moments in the limelight where their own personal stories were revealed. The characters were believable and told the story with intrigue, keeping the audience guessing right to the end. Congratulations to all the cast on their superb performance.

Finally the direction, Abbey had her work cut out not only directing the show with MATTHEW MANEY but also choreographing the routines.

I was also really impressed with the storylines, BRADLEY BOWCKETT is clearly a very creative writing talent, to bring all those wonderful stories together to create a mysterious story was superb.

I look forward to seeing future productions by AMTP. The only negative comment I have is that the show was only on for 2 nights. I think they should consider taking it to other venues. Murder at the 3 Ring Circus would not be out of place on a professional stage.

Independent Review by Yvette Owen