

Tring Park School shows

▶ Tring Park School for the Performing Arts (formerly Arts Educational School, Tring Park) presented two very good shows at the Shaw Theatre, London on February 11 and March 21 respectively. First was the Musical Theatre Course students in *Crazy For You*, a musical based around some of George and Ira Gershwin's best songs, which included "Someone to Watch Over Me", "Embraceable You" and "I've Got Rhythm". The performance revealed the excellent singing talent of Jenni Thorogood as Polly Baker as well as the immaculate dancing of the ensemble. I sometimes felt the young performers spoke their words too quickly, especially when attempting American accents, but **Christine Aitken**, a former dancer with The Royal Ballet, was moved to write to *Dancing Times* to say that the performance was: "one of the most vibrant and sparkling shows I have ever seen. Rarely have I emerged from a theatre astonished at a standard that is more than comparable to many professional musicals staged in the West End now and in the past. The highlight of the show for me were the three cowboys [Will Bozier, So Yokoi and Harrison Davies] – laid back at one time, then galvanised into action the next for dancing. They crowned it all with a moment of sheer surprise by a series of fouéttés after a particularly heavy number."

It was the turn of dance department on March 21, with a programme that showed off the students in a variety of differing dance styles. All vocational school shows have an inevitable street dance number now, and this performance was no exception, but the young men in Rachel Lane's *Spybreak!* were full of exciting energy. *A Summer's Day at the Seaside*, created by Jan Kitteridge for the younger ballet students, was a sweet number showing Victorian people enjoying a day out by the sea. More serious was Terry Wright's *Audentia*, in which World War I soldiers appeared to be haunted by spirits. An extract from Michael Pink's *Dracula* brought drama to the performance, but the highlight for me was the witty account of David Parson's *The Envelope*, in which the dancers endeavoured to get rid of a letter that just

wouldn't go away. Over the Easter break, Tring students were kept busy appearing in American Ballet Theatre's *Le Corsaire* at the London Coliseum and taking part in the Spoleto International Dance Festival. A number of the male students will also be dancing in performances of *Graduation Ball* at the Gothenburg Opera House later this month. JONATHAN GRAY



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