It's delightful, it's de-lovely, it's delicious!!

These lyrics from one of Cole Porter's toe tapping songs in *Anything Goes* perfectly sums up a thoroughly enjoyable evening of entertainment.

There is no doubt from this top-notch production by the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) that the future of musical theatre is in good hands.

Set aboard an ocean liner in the 1930's, *Anything Goes* follows the lives of cabaret star Reno who suffers unrequited love for stock broker Billy. Billy in turn has fallen in love with debutante Hope Harcourt who is already betrothed to the wealthy Englishman Evelyn. Throw in an overpowering mother, a gangster, a priest, some sailors and pretty dancers, and what happens next is mayhem.

Third year graduating students showed their professionalism filling the principal roles, while production and design students took care of set design and students from the jazz and classical programs made up the orchestra. There was not a weak link in sight - everything from the performances to stage management, set design and music was excellent.

Half time buzzed with murmurings of how enjoyable the show was with the one patron summing up my feelings exactly with one word, slick. This show is slick, colourful, high-energy and dazzling.

One lady in particular was stealing the limelight with her very own sparkle that lit up the stage. Take note, Stephanie Grigg playing Reno is one to watch. This classy lady has an incredibly powerful voice, acts like a dream, dances with ease and has a face that you simply can't take your eyes off.

Good-looking and talented James Bryers was well cast as the heart-throb romantic lead Billy. Benjamin Hoetjes as Moonface and James Bell playing Evelyn both gave strong performances with comic flair. Danae Stewart who played Billy's love interest and Gillian Cosgriff as gangster associate Erma also gave notable performances.

There were so many memorable moments as the cast brought to life this classic tale. My favourite scene would have to be the seven-minute tap dance to the title number, * Anything Goes*, that brought the first half to a close. I was impressed when I realised a few of the cast could tap dance, but when the leading lady started doing "wings" and then the entire cast joined in the routine, I was simply amazed.

*Anything Goes* is playing at the Regal Theatre and features a number of classic tunes including You're the Top, I Get a Kick out of You, Easy to Love, Blow Gabriel Blow and Buddie Beware. *Anything Goes* plays for one week only - be quick to witness the future stars of the stage in action.

WAAPA presents
*Anything Goes*
*Book by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse | Music and lyrics by Cole Porter*

**Director** Crispin Taylor

**Venue:** Regal Theatre

**Dates/Times:** Fri 11, Sat 12, Tues 15, Wed 16, Thurs 17, Fri 18, Sat 19 June, 7.30pm

**Matinees:** Sat 12, Sat 19 June, 2pm

**Tickets:** $60 Full, $50 Concession/Friends