

Dickens would have loved this play inspired by his first fictional work

Pippa binds story together with key role of servant in masterclass adaption of Pickwick Papers

by Post Reporter

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Pickwick Papers Lytham Hall Review

Outdoor specialists Rain or Shine Theatre Company produced a theatrical masterclass at Lytham Hall with their stage version of Charles Dickens' novel 'Pickwick Papers'.

Director Jonathan Legg deserves praise for his adaptation of an episodic book originally written as weekly feature for the newspaper 'The Morning Chronicle' in 1836 – his first fictional work.

Casting the outstanding Pippa Meekings in the key role of Samuel Pickwick's servant, the witty and resourceful Sam Weller, provides a well-balanced show for 21st century



Top-class detail in the period costumes enhances the performance

sensibilities. Meekings has played many leading roles with distinction for the company and here brings vitality, quick-wittedness and subservience to her portrayal of Weller who speaks with a consistently engaging and accurate cockney accent. She binds the story together.

The Lytham Hall audience of 330, the largest at Rain or Shine's 19 venues visited so far, lapped it up. Everyone could hear every word, without microphones, on a glorious evening last Friday.

Anthony Young in the title role is ever-genial, often bewildered in Boris Johnson style and at his best when declaiming his often-comical aspirations to the audience.

Nicholas Taylor plays Tracy Tupman and four other roles with superb skill. He swaps accents effortlessly, with a convincing Lanky twang an audience favourite.

Marshall Lockwood impresses in his Lytham Hall debut as Nathaniel



Pickwick Papers at Lytham Hall. Photo: Phil Downie

Winkle and is huge, bearded and unashamedly ridiculous as Pickwick's landlady Martha Bardell.

Adam Wright is first class as the aesthetic Augustus Snodgrass, bad-egg Mr Jingle and nosy neighbour Betsy Cluppings.

This is old-school ensemble playing on a simple stage at its most

accomplished. Top-class detail in the period costumes by Jayne Lloyd enhances the performance and all five actors are adept at engaging the audience directly.

Watching them travelling over rough roads in an imaginary coach is worth the price of admission alone.

Dickens would love it. Rain or Shine have launched the five July and August plays at Lytham Hall in style and happily tomorrow's performance of Romeo and Juliet by The Duke's Theatre Company from London is sold out.

Watch for a review next Thursday in the Guide.
Francesca Coupland

By George! Toe-tapping tribute to Beatles legend landing in city

by Michelle Blade

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The George Harrison Project Lancaster, July 24

Beatlemania is about to make a comeback as The George Harrison Project brings its popular show to the Lancaster Grand Theatre on Friday, July 24.

George Harrison wasn't just 'the quiet one' – he was the musical powerhouse behind some of the most loved songs in history.

As part of The Beatles, he helped shift more than 600 million records worldwide.

After the Fab Four hung up their matching suits, Harrison went on to form The Traveling Wilburys.

The Beatles are said to be the only supergroup in history where every member could legitimately be called a legend.

Harrison also released a string of solo albums, including the iconic All Things Must Pass, proving he did not need three other Beatles to make magic.

Now, The George Harrison Project brings his extraordinary catalogue back to life with

a show that's equal parts nostalgia, musicianship, and pure joy.

Expect a night packed with classics like Here Comes The Sun, My Sweet Lord, While My Guitar Gently Weeps, Something, What Is Life, Handle With Care, End Of The Line, and plenty more.

This isn't just a concert it's a feel-good journey through the soundtrack of a generation.

Audiences laugh, cry, sing along, and occasionally attempt to hit the high notes (results may vary!).

But one thing is certainly guaranteed – you'll leave with a full heart and at least one Beatles lyric stuck in your



The George Harrison Project bring their tribute show to Lancaster Grand theatre.

head for the next week.

Performed with passion, precision, and a genuine love for Harrison's music, this show celebrates a legacy

that continues to inspire, uplift, and occasionally make grown adults misty-eyed.

Tickets for the July 24 performance at the

Lancaster Grand Theatre, starting at 7.30pm, can be booked via <https://lancastergrand.co.uk/> or by calling the Box Office on 01524 64695.