

# BABIES show and tell

## REVIEW

By CAROLYN HEPBURN

There's nothing quite like a look at the world through the eyes of a nursery full of newborn babies to bring loads of laughter and the odd misty eye to the audience.

Theatre Sheridan's month-long run of Cliff Jones **BABIES** is drawing to a very successful curtain call.

Following in typical high-calibre performance standards from the first dimming of the lights, the cast, chorus and the band were sensational.

The play centres on the first few days of life of a very diverse group of newborns.

The group includes: an orphan, a magician, an accident, a baseball player, a pianist, an actress, a cowgirl, the nursery prankster and the know-it-all.

This ensemble of characters sings, dances, crawls, laughs and cries, all so believably and all to the audience's delight.

Continuing in their outstanding performances from **Best Little Whorehouse in Texas** were: Geoff Whynot, Kathy Julian, Susan Greenfield, Lawrence Mashusky, Christy Hughes, Anne Millard, Mike Donald, Pamela Dunsmoor, Phillip Forster and Randy McCormack.

Anne Millard's portrayal of the orphan baby brought tears to the house as her emotion-filled singing voice filled the theatre air.

The 'accident' (played by Marlene Handrahan) was a hilarious sequence featuring her tale of birth to initially unwilling parents.

Sid (Phillip Hughes), the nursery jokester, kept the laughs coming with his continual pranks. The scene where Sid was on the run, from the rest of the avenging nursery, featuring a giant gorilla, horse, and cannon was splendidly done.

One outstanding performance among many was unquestionably Toots (Christy Hughes). Toots was the most knowledgeable of the newly diapered clan and her antics with Sid brought the house down.

Still, the highlight of the night was undoubtedly the Dolls (Edie Jarvis and Geoff Whynot). The two costumed performers stole the show with their dancing routine and their ability to convey thoughts and feelings without speech.

The two incredibly talented students thoroughly earned the huge roars of laughter and continuous applause.

With dreams of a rock career, baby Booker (Randy McCormack) musically took centre stage with his huge grand piano to give the nursery his first rock performance.

Tammy (Jack Holroyd) danced up a storm as the potential jazz performer.

Eve (Tracy Forster) showed the nursery why she was most definitely suited for a career before the camera.

**BABIES** makes one laugh until tears, clap like mad, and leave the theatre light-hearted.

It also proves what most already know: Theatre Sheridan just keeps getting better and better.