

Glitter, magic and movie action

Georgina Allen
reviews Lights,
Camera, Action



A scene from *Lights, Camera, Action* by Dancing Feet Academy of Dance.

Picture: Howaboutdave

DANCING Feet Academy of Dance put on a spectacular production with an exceptional soundtrack.

Featuring songs from Disney classics and Oscar-winning titles, there was something for everyone.

It was a comfort for many to watch the students of a local dance school embrace the Queen's Theatre stage in Barnstaple after its temporary closure.

Three acts and more than 200 dancers of different ages and abil-

ities proved why theatres are crucial to giving people the opportunity to perform and engage with the arts.

Glitter and magic were not in short supply for act one. Once the curtains were drawn back, the youngest cast members and all their twinkling trimmings were introduced.

A small army of cheeky smiles in kaleidoscopic tutus came tapping on to the stage, making it clear this feature was going to be in technicolour. They were fol-

lowed by a flurry of fairy godmothers, a circus and ballerinas in capes. The pre-show show closed with *A Star Is Born*, an explosive debut performance hopefully marking the beginning of many dancing journeys.

Showgirls painted the stage red in sequins to open the second act, before moving into an impressive tap routine of balloon tricks and strobe lighting. The performances that followed were a showcase of talents beyond dance. Dancing Feet's musical theatre

group shared their well-rehearsed vocals and professional cabaret group Velvet Rouge gave new life to a Second World War classic with high shorts and high kicks.

The final third was a blend of genres. Tap-dancing pirates stormed through the mist brandishing swords, rivalled by agile soldiers in an action sequence. Peppered among the drama were romantic moments from *La La Land* and *Beauty And The Beast*, as well as feel-good jazz routines. Emotions were tested by a con-

temporary piece overlaid with dialogue from *The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button*. This year's show was not just for kids, in fact it had the school's biggest adult cast ever.

Months of rehearsals came down to one fleeting moment and family and friends had never clapped so hard. The person responsible for making it happen was principal Nadine Morrish. When her pupils are on stage they are all driven by a love for what they do and their passion is infectious.