

### **New Variety show proves a big hit.**

The, almost capacity, audience at the Whitley Bay Playhouse were treated to a night few will forget on Sunday when **'Those Were The Days'** show finally came to town.

Performed in an 'old time music hall' style it had the audience singing and cheering throughout as familiar song followed familiar song.

During the impressive opening the audience were treated, not only to 5 great singers but 5 stunning dancers too. A feast of colour that set the scene for the entire performance.

A nice surprise were the 10 children drawn from local dance schools. They played their part well, appearing in several routines and two of them (Natalie Pringle and Aimee Shields) even got to sing solo. A daunting prospect for an 11 year old.

The first half included familiar songs from Al Jolson (Chris James), Izzy Bonn (Marie Adele), Flanagan & Allan (Colin Francis) and the 'Tessie O'Shea' patter song "*nobody loves a fairy when she's 40*" (Christine Milburn), as well as a breathtaking version of the Can-Can. It concluded with a musical trip around the UK which had everyone singing along to the Blaydon Races.

The second half opened with a well choreographed tribute to Glenn Miller and a lovely rendition of the Platters classic 'My Prayer' from the chairman of the show Tony Markey who was in fine voice. A nice surprise was the inclusion of a *tap-dance number*, a skill rarely seen today in variety shows.

The evening concluded with a medley of songs from the war years as each member of the audience entered into the spirit by waving their flags (thankfully provided by the cast) and singing along to a rousing chorus of Land of Hope and Glory.

A great evening out that targeted the age group well and played up to them tremendously. Their next outing is on November 24<sup>th</sup>. A 'sell out' at the Customs House South Shields. You can also keep in touch via: ***[www.sidebysideproductions.co.uk](http://www.sidebysideproductions.co.uk)***