

Stepping Out – Wimborne Drama, Tivoli Theatre

WIMBORNE Drama have never been afraid of a challenge, but to take on a production which required the entire cast to learn a totally new skill is commendable to say the least.

And they pulled it off, so much so that it was hard to believe that prior to starting rehearsals for Stepping Out, only Kristin Williams, who had the starring role as instructor Mavis - the part taken by Liza Minnelli in the film - had been a tap dancer.

The story is quite simple. Mavis, a hooper who having failed to make a career on the stage – portrayed as a teenager by the talented Rebecca Feltham – resorts to teaching a disparate group of wannabe dancers in a run-down village hall.

Joining the class of six women, and one



man, was Vera – in the Julie Walters part – played with a lot of humour by Jan Bursby. Their efforts to co-ordinate their limbs was hugely amusing, and it was difficult to believe that by the end of the evening they could become a proficient,

co-ordinated team. But they did, to huge applause from the very enthusiastic first night audience.

Colin Pile has been in a number of productions in both Wimborne and Ferndown, but he has never been better than as the shy Geoffrey, the only man in the class. More dancing roles beckon Colin!

Jean Dishington, Jolene Palmer, Tracey Nicholls, Boo Feltham, Clare Downs and Jen Stacey were the other dancers who developed their characters – and their dancing skills - as did Jackson Ellen, the eccentric pianist.

Well done, Wimborne Drama, it was a triumph. M.A.