

# Annie 'grabbed the hearts of the audience'

By **TED BROWN**  
Staff Writer

Set against the Depression years in New York City, Globe Production's Youth Company brought *Annie* to the stage of the Milton Centre for the Arts last weekend.

Sporting a cast of nearly 50 kids, the production grabbed the hearts of the audience from the opening overture to the closing number. With such a huge cast, there were a few members who stood out in the performance.

Mari MacDonald shone as the precocious Annie, with an excellent singing voice and great stage presence.

Opposite her was Ryan Jeffrey giving

an equally strong performance as the arrogant billionaire Oliver Warbucks, who was a great fit to play opposite MacDonald.

The wicked Miss Hannigan, played by Victoria Galvao, was another highlight in the show, giving the show's 'villain' another dimension.

Sets were not elaborate, but the Warbucks mansion was quite effective, as the curving staircase gave the impression of an expensive home. Costumes were quite elaborate, a credit to those designing them.

*Annie* was a great platform to introduce a number of young kids to the stage. Globe gave those kids taking part a taste of musical theatre that will most likely bring many of them back for the next production.

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