

## **CHESS**

Review by: Keith Scott-Savage  
Presented by: **RIPLEY & ALFRETON MUSICAL  
THEATRE COMPANY**  
Venue: Alfreton Grange Arts College  
Performance Dates: 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
Producer: Phil Simcox  
Musical Director: Andy Booth  
Choreographer: Chris Parkes

A really challenging show and the company met it head on. R.A.M.T.C. have certainly raised their game. A simple chess board on the main stage with hotel room sets on both sides, with the orchestra across the back, created a very effective set.

It was very well cast, with powerful performances from Jonathon Penton as the Russian, Hilary Leam as Florence and Andy Quinn superb as the American. These three led the way with polished and moving performances. Excellent support by Louise Coope as the Arbiter, Paul Whitworth, as Molokov and a lovely cameo from Yvonne Taylor as Svetlana completed a competent cast. A well drilled chorus performed some very imaginative choreography with some excellent choral moments throughout. Simple effective lighting plus a super band made for an evening's entertainment that will be remembered for a long time.

This production has set a very high precedent for the other musicals in Region 2

