

CATEGORY AND NAMES	PRODUCTION AND SOCIETY	CITATIONS
MOST INTERESTING GROUPING		
Lucy Goodchild, Kim Marston-Taylor & Ann Mundy as the Three Mermaids	Pirates from Atlantis for Redbourn Players	The Three Mermaids –were very animated both facially and vocally. They were only small parts, but they made an impact and I liked what they did very much
Liz Harvey, Tim Hayden & Graham Thomas as Amy, Martin and Gareth WINNERS	Neighbourhood Watch for St Andrew's Players	Liz Harvey had the knack of creating a wonderfully well-rounded character, her take on Amy was feisty and yet poignant somehow. The way she flirted with Martin and eventually won him over was very satisfying. Graham Thomas played Gareth. His meltdown in Act 2 was very well done – the best thing I have seen Graham do Tim Haydon created a super character as Martin Massie. I loved the nuances of his portrayal, and the tenderness but intensity of his first kiss with Amy. A complex but true character
BEST PROJECTION AND CHARACTERISATION - JUNIORS		
Reece Bithrey for Dennis and a stand-up routine	Light & Shade for TADS Teens	As Dennis - Reece gave the part plenty of expression and projection and was very brave in doing a stand-up routine, but he had some good jokes in there, and got the audience laughing and on his side
Nathaniel Edwards for Alan-A-Dale	Robin Hood for Stage 1	Nathaniel stood out as his face is always full of expression, and he got the feel of the part really well. Loved his Lincolnshire Poacher number, with the other Merry men joining in
Charlotte Lovelock, Amy Farrar and Evie Wright WINNERS	Musical Moments 4 for Phoenix Players	Charlotte didn't have any solos, but showed real expression in all the numbers she sang. Evie showed understanding of the words and meaning of her song, whilst displaying a very powerful voice, with loads of light and shade. Amy gave her number expression and good phrasing, also showing how much she gets involved with the words of all the numbers she performed
Mollie Bray, Charlie Driver and Alice Wells	Light & Shade for Tads Teens	I was impressed as these young ladies projected really well throughout. Mollie Bray played Lizzie, a young girl who goes to Harmony to find her father, a very good characterisation Nancy was nicely acted by Charlie Driver, and I liked the relationship created between her and her husband Dennis Alice played dual roles very well
Carl Connelly as Fleshcreep	Jack & the Beanstalk for Griffin Players	Carl was a very good baddie, we enjoyed boo-ing him, he projected well, and had lots of expression – I loved the Little Mix section, when he showed a completely different persona! He certainly looked the part too

BEST MD		
Clive Ogden	Hairspray for SAMTC	Clive had amassed a good band that made every note count, and the sound balance between pit and stage was excellent, something that is often difficult to get right at the Arena – but it certainly worked well, so that we could appreciate both the sound from the band and the voices of the cast
James Driver WINNER	Dick & His Pussy for Griffin Players	James had chosen some very suitable music, and written words that were interwoven with the plot – a very clever mix, and it was also nice to have a couple of more serious numbers - a bit of culture amongst the more full-on subject matter. The overtures, serious rock music going on, really set the scene, and were greatly enjoyed which along with underscoring to scene changes, made the whole production flow well
Philip Joslin WINNER	Fiddler on the Roof for SAMTC	Musically I found nothing jarred, the harmonies from the ensemble, and the vocal quality of the principals was mostly spot-on, making the music sound new and exciting. The orchestra accompanied well under Phil Joslin's direction, bringing the sound up to a full, rich sound where needed
Richard Cowling	Pump Boys & Dinettes for St Andrew's Players	Music was delightfully presented and Richard had gained the most from his cast, in all areas
BEST DUO - MUSICALS		
Stephen Wilks & Debby Connor as Tevye & Golde WINNERS	Fiddle on the Roof for SAMTC	Stephen Wilks showed a fine voice and good understanding of Tevye – probably one of the best I've seen, a fully rounded character, with a nice twinkle in his eye when speaking to the higher being! I enjoyed his rendition of Rich Man, it was extremely good. Golde was nicely portrayed by Debby Connor – vocally and expression-wise she maintained the firm but motherly disposition, and there was a good relationship between her and Tevye. I particularly liked Do You Love Me? – it got all the nuances of a long marriage, and managed to be tender as well – a real tearjerker for me
Lucy O'Hare & James Halling as Paulette & Kyle WINNERS	Legally Blonde for DAOS	Lucy O'Hare gave us a well-studied performance, she always gets to the bottom of a part, her song Ireland was excellent, as were the very quirky costumes she wore. James Halling created a very butch Kyle . Lots of energy and swagger which suited the part well – very well done, the relationship between Paulette and Kyle was very good, choreographically Lynette Driver got the most she could from his duet with Paulette
BEST DUO or GROUPING - JUNIORS		
Lucy Farrar and Emily Harber as Robin Hood and Maid Marion WINNERS	Robin Hood for Stage 1	A super Robin Hood, really looking the part, plenty of principal boy attitude and expression. A good performer, Lucy sang very nicely, and I enjoy how she interprets a role. Her costumes were stunning. Emily played Maid Marion well, and I enjoyed the main duet between her and Robin, their voices went well with each other. Loved the pink costume, very detailed and added to the charming look Emily gave

Forrest Jones and Alice Hayden as Jack and the Princess	Jack & the Beanstalk for Griffin Players	Forrest created a good Jack, in his first pantomime. He got the devil-may-care attitude, interacting well with the other cast members and singing his numbers well, with expression – I liked his relationship with the Princess played by Alice, who gave the Princess a very charming but feisty character, she sang nicely too and related well with the audience
Kurt Price, Bethany Newport & Ben Parks as the Sheriff, Geraldine and Sir Guy	Robin Hood for Stage 1	I liked the relationship between the Sheriff, his wife Geraldine, and Sir Guy, they gave us very good projection and very spirited portrayals, which added a different dimension to the piece. The exit lines between the Sheriff and Geraldine were very funny and well done. I loved the part where the Sheriff and Sir Guy appeared in their underwear, both lads showed no embarrassment and really acted well
BEST CHOREOGRAPHY		
Lynette Driver	Legally Blonde for DAOS	Choreographically, Lynette gave the cast plenty to do that was well within their capabilities, I was particularly impressed by the Whipped into Shape number
Claire Keates WINNER	2016 Gang Show for St Albans Scouts & Guides	Choreography throughout was suitable for all abilities, and gave everyone a chance to shine in their own particular field of expertise – ballet, tap, street and general movement. I know the amount of work that goes into making these numbers work, so well done to Claire Keates and her team
Claire Stanley WINNER	Hairspray for SAMTC	Choreography was excellent – particularly the main ensemble numbers. I enjoyed the dance routines, they played to the strengths of the dancers, whilst accommodating the movers. A good balance in some very well-schooled numbers
Fleur Baikie	Half a Sixpence for HLOS	The cast looked as if they were enjoying themselves; with the ensemble numbers, although fairly short, keeping up the energy, a rather charming production, helped along by very suitable choreography from Fleur Baikie
BEST MALE – MUSICAL		
Matthew Gregory as Edna Turnblad WINNER	Hairspray for SAMTC	Matthew created a really good Edna Turnblad – it shouldn't have worked on so many levels, but it just did. Matthew got a very good feminine take on the part, with first class mannerisms – and he looked fantastic in his finale costume!
Richard Cowling	Pump Boys & Dinettes for St Andrew's Players	I particularly liked some of Richard Cowling's numbers – Serve Yourself had a bluesy feel, Fisherman's Prayer sang unaccompanied and Desperado which was very beautiful
Daniel Quirke as Link Larkin	Hairspray for SAMTC	I loved the easy sharpness of Daniel Quirke as Link Larkin, he had a real twinkle in his eye, that suited the part, and I liked his rendition of It Takes Two. A good all round portrayal, with the right amount of impudence

BEST COSTUMES		
St Albans Scouts & Guides WINNERS	2016 Gang Show	I think the costumes this year were even better than last year, and everyone looked so good in them – colourful, neat and tidy, with good hairstyles from everyone. Attention to detail like this is always appreciated. I particularly liked the flamboyance of the models in the Camera set, the black and white costumes for Piano Man, and all the costumes for the Stationery set – which were inspired
HHTC	Blithe Spirit	The costumes were very good, particularly Elvira, also Ruth and Mrs. Bradman’s colour co-ordination throughout. The men’s costumes were very smart and in keeping with the era, with Madame Arcati’s being very eccentric
Stage 1	Robin Hood	The costumes were particularly good this year, very colourful and pristine, with nice tidy hair which just completes the picture and that attention to detail increases enjoyment of the overall production
BEST ADULT GROUPING - MUSICAL		
John O’Leary, Steve Peters, Dave Sims & Richard Cowling WINNERS	Pump Boys & Dinettes for St Andrew’s Players	The men treated us to a mix of amusing, thoughtful and poignant songs, all performed really well. I loved the easy relationship between them. They also provided the musical accompaniment to the show I particularly liked some of Richard Cowling’s numbers – Serve Yourself had a bluesy feel, Fisherman’s Prayer sang unaccompanied and Desperado which was very beautiful. John made a very good job of Child in Your Household, and both Steve and Dave had solos that they accomplished well
Lisa Abella, Charlotte Tabert, Jo Yirrell & Jo Harris WINNERS	Pump Boys & Dinettes for St Andrew’s Players	These ladies all did really well with both their solo and group numbers – an eclectic mix of full-on and feisty, to thought-provoking songs. They interacted well, and performed their numbers and the choreography with great understanding and style. Lisa sang a couple of standout numbers – Vacation which was unaccompanied and the closing number, which gave her the chance to really let rip. Be Good or Be Gone was a very moving song from Jo Harris, Jo and Jo gave us an amusing and affecting number in Sisters, and it was good to see Charlotte on stage rather than in the pit, with her and Dave performing a good upbeat number that the audience were able to join in with
Ian Boughton, Barny Shergold & Peter Johnson as the Soldier Trio	Princess Ida for PBGS	I loved the trio of soldiers, played by Ian Boughton, Barny Shergold and Peter Johnson – it must have been such fun (although a little restricting in the suits of armour) to have played the parts, and their first song was particularly funny
Gordon Hodges, Stephen Hoath & Joe Emler as Hilarion, Florian & Cyril	Princess Ida for PBGS	I loved Hilarion as played by Gordon Hodges, he couldn’t have done more to bring this character to life. The slightly camp and balletic interpretation worked well with Florian and Cyril, making them a nicely diverse trio. I thought Gordon also showed his very good singing voice off extremely well, with expressive elements and good phrasing.

		<p>Florian was the more mature and robust member of the trio, played very well by Stephen Hoath, trying to curb the eagerness of Hilarion and Cyril – I enjoyed his interpretation and singing.</p> <p>Joe Emler was a super enthusiastic Cyril, such energy, which added so much to what could have been a rather insignificant character – a good all round portrayal, delivered with gusto.</p>
BEST COMEDY PERFORMANCE ~ MALE		
James Halling as Kyle	Legally Blonde for DAOS	James created a very butch Kyle which I loved, very accomplished in all areas. Lots of energy and swagger which suited the part well – very well done
Alex Wheeler as Carlos WINNER	Legally Blonde for DAOS	I thoroughly enjoyed Alex Wheeler as Carlos - his rendition of Gay or European was absolutely super. Alex has a real feel for comedy, and isn't afraid to get in there and be laughed at with no awkwardness in his portrayal
Richard Lovelock as the Alderman WINNER	Dick & His Pussy for Griffin Players	Good interaction with the audience, and his 'sick' scene was so much fun. Richard has a good way of creating a link with the audience. The telling of the Cinderella story was a highlight!
Errol Albert as Dick	Dick & His Pussy for Griffin Players	Errol always has great fun with his characters, and this was no exception, he has a wicked glint in his eye which translates to the lib and his interaction with the audience is great fun
BEST FEMALE – MUSICAL		
Sarah Winter as Lilli WINNER	Kiss Me Kate for HHTC	Sarah sang and acted Lilli well, with real vitriol in her voice when needed, and first-rate overall accomplishment. Vocally very good, I thought I Hate Men was excellent, loads of expression - I enjoyed her performance
Lucy O'Hare as Paulette	Legally Blonde for DAOS	A well-studied performance, Lucy always gets to the bottom of a part, and this was no exception. I thought her song Ireland was excellent, as were the very quirky costumes she wore
Helen Harris as Elle WINNER	Legally Blonde for DAOS	Helen's usual high standard performance, loads of expression both facially and within the lib, I loved her version of Legally Blonde, which was full of emotion. A very challenging show with a number of quick changes, as well as being on stage for the majority of the show
Lisa Abella	Pump Boys & Dinettes for St Andrew's Players	Lisa sang a couple of standout numbers – Vacation which was unaccompanied and the closing number, which gave her the chance to really let rip

BEST COMEDY PERFORMANCE - FEMALE		
Tammy Calvert as Ida	See How They Run for Square Drama	Tammy created a very amusing and memorable Ida, she projected well, with many telling facial expressions, and gave her dialogue plenty of meaning, making the most of the comic opportunities
Lisa Harbron as Edith	Blithe Spirit for HHTC	Lisa created a lovely character. The rushing round and slowing down, accompanied by the naivety of the girl was nicely achieved, a good catalyst to the more elegant ladies
Dee Lovelock as the Cat WINNER	Dick & His Pussy for Griffin Players	Dee created a super cat – she was extremely funny and feisty, a fantastic character. I particularly loved the litterbox scene, and also the kebab scene with Dick. A very different and hilarious cat
BEST CHARACTER ACTORS		
Imogen Roberts as Miss Partridge	Wild Goose Chase – Bovingdon Players	The rather eccentric Miss Partridge was beautifully played by Imogen. I always enjoy her interpretation of a character, and this was spot on, creating a good contrast to the other characters within the play, and a really fun portrayal in its own right
Benita Gilliam as Miss Brown WINNER	The Secret Tent – Redbourn Players	Benita created a great character performance as Miss Brown – this lady really gets into her part and gave it such perspicacity, making Miss Brown the catalyst for gossip and meddling – I loved her performance.
Euan Howell as Ernie WINNER	The Secret Tent – Redbourn Players	Euan created a super character as Ernie. Slightly simple but knowing, I was so impressed that such a young man could give such a discerning performance. Very well done.
John Kensett as Autolycus	A Winter's Tale – Breakaway Theatre Company	John, with his usual attention to detail, created an excellent schemer as Autolycus, he switched well between the different character elements, bringing a good contrast to the other characters
BEST MALE - PLAYS		
Tim Hayden as Martin Massie	Neighbourhood Watch for St Andrew's Players	Tim created a super character deeply involved in organising a neighbourhood watch, but then found the joys of relationship with the lovely outgoing Amy. A complex but true character. The Churchillian speech was strong and effective, which gained spontaneous applause from the audience
John Mower as Norman	Table Manners for Bovingdon Players	John was very expressive facially and vocally, he gave the character the necessary manic edge and was irritating and child-like all at once! I particularly enjoyed his monologue where he was mimicking Annie; extremely well done
Malcolm Hobbs as Jack	The Weir - WDS	Malcolm created a super character. He got humour and edge to the part, which was very good. His monologue was delivered well, with good expression. I liked the diversity of his portrayal, making Jack a very three-dimensional person

David Howell as Christopher	The Secret Tent – Redbourn Players	David was called upon to stretch his normal acting skills to a full on dramatic performance, which he achieved really well. The last scene was particularly difficult and telling for him, reaching good dramatic heights, and showing us a completely different side to his accomplishments – I was most impressed.
Tim Hayden as Captain Markinson WINNER	A Few Good Men – Griffin Players	Tim gave us a remarkable insight into Captain Markinson, a man whose conscience stirred him with regard to the case, the two accused, and the lies his officer tried to make him party to. The scene when he was writing his letter to Santiago’s parents was poignant, leading to him committing suicide, which again was a strong effective scene
BEST FEMALE - PLAYS		
Sabina Jackson as Andy	Stepping Out – Square Drama	Sabina was really good as Andy, she got the slightly withdrawn character making it utterly believable that her husband was knocking her around – I thought she gave an accomplished performance
Lucy Booth as Elvira	Blithe Spirit - HHTC	Lucy gave us an ethereal, but also earthy Elvira – creating some very amusing moments, I loved what she brought to the part , including her reaction when Ruth died, and her fine upbeat interpretation
Dee Lovelock as the Nurse	Romeo & Juliet - TADS	The garrulous Nurse was Dee’s first outing in Shakespeare – I loved her first speech particularly – overall a very good portrayal, with plenty of ups and downs in passions and expression
Tracey Chatterley as Madge and Lady Capulet WINNER	Sherlock & Romeo & Juliet - TADS	Sherlock - Tracey had to cover a number of different portrayals within her character of Madge, all of which were very good. I appreciated the quick changes, which also incorporated change of hairstyle in some places, all very skilled. Tracey got good inflections within her characterisations, and managed to project even when speaking quietly – I really enjoyed her performance R&J - I particularly liked Tracey’s demeanour throughout – she had the hauteur of a Lady, with the more soft feeling of a mother towards her daughter
BEST DUO – PLAY - Male		
Anthony Bird & Steven Pryer as Holmes & Watson	Sherlock - TADS	Anthony created a very different Sherlock Holmes, which made it interesting, I felt that his portrayal showed a lighter side of Sherlock, whilst emphasising the drug habit that is often just alluded to in a lot of productions. I liked what he did with the part, even though it seemed a little strange to view him in an unusual light. Steven brought his experience to play with Dr Watson – and created a fine character, a real contrast to the almost devil-may-care attitude of Sherlock. I liked the measured tones, and the lowering of his voice, it gave Watson gravitas – making a good dimension to the relationship between Holmes and Watson

Sam Harris & Ed Fletcher- Wells as Capone & Wedgewood	Wild Goose Chase – Bovington Players	The gangster-like Capone and Wedgewood gave an added dimension to the play – Sam with his accent which came over well, and Ed with his enforced silence - very expressive performances from them both, with lots of amusing interludes. Sam also proved very athletic in the running around. A good duo
Carl Connelly & Nico Bamford as Lieutenant Kaffee and Lieutenant Weinberg WINNERS	A Few Good Men – Griffin Players	I loved Carl Connelly as Lieutenant Kaffee. The fact that at a comparatively young age he could hold the stage, and elicit such varying responses from those around him, is testament to someone who took direction well, but also got under the skin of his character. Extremely accomplished, and very well performed Nico Bamford played Lieutenant Weinberg with an almost world-weary approach, which contrasted well with the devil-may-care attitude of Kaffee – a good solid portrayal, and one which I enjoyed
Daniel Farmer-Patel & Unami Tenga as Private Downey and Lance-Corporal Dawson WINNERS	A Few Good Men – Griffin Players	I was particularly impressed by Unami Tenga who played Lance Corporal Dawson, one of the accused men, he kept his character the whole way through, and didn't veer from his military bearing. An excellent portrayal. Daniel Farmer-Patel played Private Downey, the other accused man, and I liked the way there were occasional covert glances to his officer to see how he should react, again a very good portrayal
BEST DUO – PLAYS		
Pip Dowdell & Robin Langer as Lady Cynthia & Admiral Hayling	Relative Values - WDS	Pip Dowdell created a very disdainful and disapproving Lady Cynthia, and I loved the relationship between her and her very hidebound husband Admiral Sir John Hayling, nicely played by Robin Langer. A very good partnership, creating a foil to the lighter and less snobbish characters!
Katy Ratcliffe & Dan Clucas as Ruth & Charles	Blithe Spirit - HHTC	Katy's Ruth was spot on, a slightly ditzzy woman, who was not as confident as she could have been with being the second wife – I loved the moments when Elvira materialised and the relationship between the two ladies began. We got a lot of humour out of their spats, and then the eventual collusion between them. Dan was a very urbane Charles, showing confusion then acceptance over his rather naughty wives – I thought he was the best Charles I have seen for a while. He spoke the words in a very natural manner making him very believable, and reflected his feelings toward both wives!
Steve Loczy & Jenna Kay as Romeo & Juliet WINNERS	Romeo & Juliet - TADS	I thought the pairing was first rate – they looked good together, and interacted well. Steve always gives a fine performance, he has an instinctive understanding of how to deliver lib, I loved the nuances and expression within his interpretation. Jenna, in her first principal Shakespeare role for TADS, really stepped up and delivered the girl who suddenly falls in love and becomes a woman, with all the insecurities and feistiness we associate with a young girl. Well done

Irene Morris & Julie Field as Louisa & Emily Creed WINNERS	Ladies in Retirement - WDS	Irene created a really good character as Louisa Creed – we got the feeling of a woman of the times with strong views and a slightly childish outlook, I really liked her interpretation. Julie as sister Emily, got the rather sly character very well, you could feel her pent up anger at times. The two sisters interacted well
Simon Ellis & Abigail Giles as Leontes & Hermione	A Winter's Tale – Breakaway Theatre Company	Simon showed the many sides of his character, from the tyrannical king, to the dotting husband and father, both passionate and anguished – a good portrayal. Abigail was a lovely Hermione – again much passion, anger and grief was sewn into this complex character – very well done
SPECIAL AWARDS – FOR CONSISTENT TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE		
JOHN & GILL EAMES – for HHTC Productions		John and Gill have made, designed and supplied props for many HHTC productions, and they always manage to create a credible set that allows the cast room to move, even if, as in Fawlty Towers, they had 5 rooms on the small stage you see behind you – no mean feat! John also masterminded the acquiring of the new raked seating which has made such a difference to the seating requirements here. I can't emphasise enough the need for this commitment to the technical side of a production, and HHTC are very lucky in that they also have some very able people who assist as well
FOR SERVICES TO STAGE 1 AND YOUTH PERFORMERS IN GENERAL		
TERRY & VAL MILLS for Stage 1		Terry and Val have been involved with initiating young people into the art of performance for at least 30 years – this being the 30 th anniversary year of Stage 1 – and over that time have produced many young people who have gone on to join Societies within the area, and continue to enjoy performing, which is a testament to the flair, enthusiasm and experience Terry and Val impart to everyone. I know they would say they couldn't do it without their band of helpers, who are an important part of any society, but the drive, ideas and enthusiasm are theirs, and also the responsibility, which is undertaken by them in their wish to involve as many young people as possible in this joyous hobby of ours. Thank you both for all you do
BEST FINALE & BOWS		
A Few Good Men	Griffin Players	A different finale, but in keeping with the feeling of the play - the intensity of the play was maintained until the end which I really appreciated
Sherlock WINNER	TADS	I loved the bows, so much more effective than the usual and a very good way of accomplishing them – tableaux of the linked characters, and spotlights to emphasise each individual – with the final silhouette of Holmes donning his deerstalker and putting his pipe to his mouth. It drew the evening to a very satisfactory close
Kiss Me Kate	HHTC	I liked the finale and the configuration of the bows, a rousing ending to a good, but not exceptional production

2016 Gang Show	St Albans Scouts & Guides	Mia Vickers, Matt Lee and Louisa Kataria started it off with an appealing rendition of Just One Person, then the tabs opened and once again we were treated to that huge wall of sound when the entire cast started singing – always a very heart-stopping moment, increasing the enjoyment of the whole finale
Dick & His Pussy WINNER	Griffin Players	Almost a throw away finale – with the cast retiring to the bar for a well-earned drink, leaving the Captain dead on stage – a fitting finale to an extremely funny pantomime