

Goldstar.com reviews for Sweeney Todd
At El Camino College – March 14-29, 2009
(unedited as captured from the web site)

March 16, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 4.0

I have seen the original with George Hearn and Angela Lansbury and this production more than holds its own in comparison to the original. This is such an exceptional and difficult score and the musicality and diction of the orchestra and cast were impeccable. Two notable performers were Shirley Anne Hatton as Mrs. Lovett who made the role her own and for me practically stole the show and Tyler Milliron whose rendition of Joanna made the song passionate and lilting, a bonafide rising young star. Unfortunately the run is very short and I hope all those that love musical theatre get to see it.

March 23, 2009 – Mary – Rated 4.0

My son & I love musicals and this was absolutely fantastic. After reading the reviews, we were so excited to have the opportunity to see this incredible cast. The music, vocal talent, sets and costumes were perfect. We would see it again if time permitted. Highly recommended!

March 30, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 4.0

Easily one of the best musical theater presentations in all of L.A. Surprising because it occurred at El Camino College of all places. This was as fine a production as I've seen anywhere and that includes the likes of the Ahmanson, Mark Taper Forum, Pasadena Playhouse etc. The leads were superb performers and the audience LOVED this show. I've never seen an audience receive a production so warmly, as though they found a buried treasure in a secret hideaway. Too bad it's over. I would have liked to have seen it again. Paid \$25 and got an \$80 show! Kudos all around!

March 23, 2009 – Joan – Rated 4.0

I was initially squeamish about seeing this show, but went because of a friend who had a bit part in it. Was pleasantly surprised at how well the cast performed Sondheim's very challenging (wordy, often discordant) score, and how very watchable it was. Suitable for kids over 10, but they let in kids over 5. It was a very fast three hours, very enjoyable and well-produced. Director Ron Scarlata and Conductor Hector Salazar did their usual magic, and the cast was very professional -- always on pitch and powerful. Great job by all involved.

March 23, 2009 – Paul P – Rated 4.0

An excellent production of a difficult show. The leads were both amazing, the secondary roles less so, but overall for a small college to pull Sweeney off with this level of professionalism, WOW!

March 23, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 4.0

I absolutely loved this production of Sweeney Todd. Having seen it with Angela Lansbury and George Hearn, I admit that I did not expect it to be as good, but I was pleasantly surprised. I highly recommend it - excellent!

March 16, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 3.0

An impressive production of SWEENEY TODD featuring marvelous production values and a rare chance to hear this extraordinary score with a full 19 piece orchestra. If the acting is somewhat uneven among the supporting cast, the vocals are across the board superb, with especially strong performances from Shirley Hatton as Mrs. Lovett and Tyler Milliron as Anthony. Ron Scarlatta seems content with mostly recreating Hal Prince's original staging and the costumes look a little too clean and pretty, but these are minor quibbles. Anyone who loves Sondheim and this piece should see this production.

March 16, 2009 – Lisa L – Rated 4.0

I really enjoyed this production. It was staged as in the original Broadway show, not the recent revival.

The singers were excellent, with Sweeney and Anthony giving superb performances of sincerity and passion.

I would highly recommend this show to anybody who loved the George Hearn/Angela Lansbury recorded version.

A great time at the theater

March 30, 2009 – Liz K – Rated 4.0

Four of us went, four of us loved it!

Great production of another Sondheim masterpiece. We expected a college production (it was at the Campus Theatre of El Camino College) but many/most of the orchestra and much of the cast was professional. The show was powerful and the actors pulled off the dark humor beautifully. The audience was completely captivated.

The orchestra was a very, very pleasant surprise! I think there were 18 musicians - excellent from beginning to end. Sondheim is very tricky and they nailed it.

Fairly small theatre, free parking. One small suggestion: find a solution to the occasional distortion when the voices are very loud (maybe this happened 6 or 7 times total). It was rare, but distracting.

March 30, 2009 – Edogh – Rated 4.0

The set, the music, the lights, the acting... This was an all around GREAT performance.

March 30, 2009 – Donna Milliron – Rated 4.0

This was a fabulous production - I would attend again - wish it were still playing! Who would have guessed that a college theater could host such a superbly professional show. Kudos to all involved, this was spectacular!

March 30, 2009 – Persion – Rated 4.0

Loved the event. Well done by this theatre. It's the best that I've been to through Goldstar so far.

March 30, 2009 – Cocopazzo – Rated 3.0

An excellent semi-professional production of a musical theatre classic. The two leads were fantastic and the supporting ensemble more than held their own.

March 24, 2009 – Kinger – Rated 4.0

Shirley Hatton was amazing.

March 23, 2009 – Rita B. – Rated. 4.0

All the actors are very good and the production is also very good!! I highly recommend it!

March 23, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 2.0

I must have seen a different show than the rest of the reviewers here.

Generally, the show was very good. The ingenues were strong (especially the handsome but slightly effeminate Tyler Milliron as Anthony) but the leads, while having some very SOLID, entertaining moments seemed to be coasting through-out the entire evening. Shirley Hatton's Mrs. Lovett was unimaginative but serviceable while Michael S. Forrest's Todd was extremely well voiced but lacked the inner pain and rage required for the roll. Jack Messenger (Judge Turpin), seemingly the most well rounded of the group, delivered a flawless performance. Chuck Turner's sets were pleasant and Bill Georges' lighting was superb. All in all, a very pleasant evening. I wouldn't hesitate to see the show a second time. But comparing it to the original Broadway production? Please.

March 23, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 4.0

Quite easily the best musical I've ever seen at El Camino College, and I've been a patron for over 20 years. The set was visually stunning, the cast very strong, and the vocals superb. Bravo!

March 23, 2009 – RabbiBud – Rated 3.0

This is not one of my favorite Musicals due to the theme involved, but I have to admit the voices were very, very good and the costumes also superior. The live orchestra added an extra quality that is becoming less common. This all amateur college show was worth seeing, especially if you haven't ever seen Sweeney. The price/value margin was unbelievable. Do not take the young ones with you. Some laughs, some blood gushing.

March 23, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 4.0

Had I seen this show at the Music Center or Pantages, I would have been just as impressed. It was truly fabulous. Better than most CLOs.

March 23, 2009 – Anonymous – Rated 4.0

Wow! I go to a lot of musicals, and this was the best that I've seen in at least 4 years - a great balance of creepy / comedic / thought-provoking. Singers were great and spot-on (I don't think I've ever heard Sondheim sound so effortless and virtuosic), projectile blood was hilariously realistic.

This show deserves to be sold out for the remainder of its run, and you're a fool if you don't make the time to go see it.

March 16, 2009 – MrDarren – Rated 3.0

It's a very dark show. More importantly, El Camino's Sweeney Todd has very strong elements. The ensemble sounds excellent, individual voices are strong, the lighting is precise, and the sets are creative. Overall, it's an entertaining, quality production.

March 16, 2009 – Jose R. – Rated 3.0

Great performance of the cast especially the leads. I didn't care much about the show itself but I cannot fault the cast for that.