

THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Hollywood classics on the London stage

The Great American Songbook
New End Theatre,
27 New End,
Hampstead, NW3
Till 13th September
Tickets £22.50

THE pocket-sized stage of The New End Theatre is transformed into Hollywood.

A marvellous four-piece band (The Gas Orchestra), strike up and we are whisked back to the 20's with Cole Porter's 'Another Op'nin', Another Show'.

Featuring the music of Porter, Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Rogers and Hammerstein and Rogers and Hart, made famous by legendary artists such as Tony Bennett, Nat King Cole, Judy Garland, Ella Fitzgerald and The Rat Pack, this production features Ray Caruana, Louisa Parry and Paul Roberts.

They share their talent and voices with their audience whilst clearly relishing the material they are performing.

It's hard to go wrong with such a cornucopia embracing the songs of forty years ranging from 'Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered' to 'I Got Rhythm' and 'Some Enchanted Evening'.

With snippets of information about the origins of various of the numbers and different versions, the three



Paul Roberts, Louisa Parry and Ray Caruana appearing in 'The Great American Songbook'

have their own strengths and are at best when they are all combined.

I defy anyone to not find a moment of toe-tapping joy at

some point during the show.

As the air conditioning cooled us on a warm summer's evening, the theatre was brimming with nostal-

gia, showbiz glamour and celebration of a wonderful songbook legacy.

So - Let's Face The Music & Dance!