

Sweeney Todd at South Hill Park makes the cut: Five stars!

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OPINION

BY FRANCESCAPERRYMAN



Take a look at what we made of South Hill Park's latest showing of Sweeney Todd.



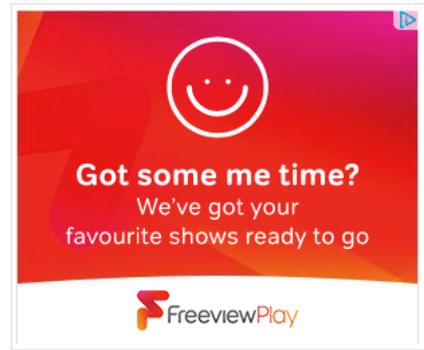
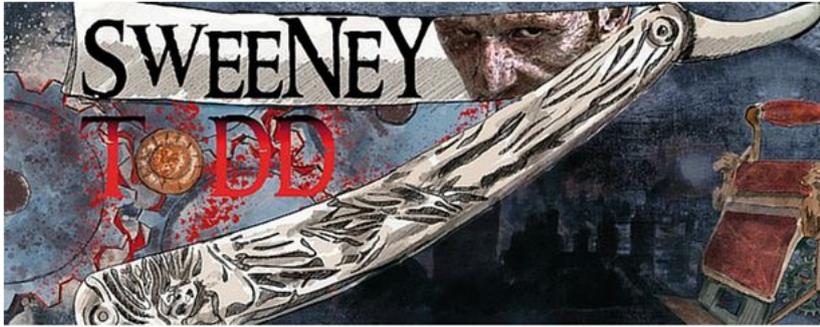
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Sitting down straight after the show to gather my thoughts for this review was tough and for all the right reasons.

[South Hill Park](#) has raised the bar once again for a top notch performance in its catalogue of shows and this time, it's for the demon barber of Fleet Street himself - Sweeney Todd.

From the get-go, just the opening number was like something out of the West End.

I love horrors and the music and silhouettes just oozed creepy. I loved it!

At first I felt a little sorry for Mr Todd, but those feelings were soon overshadowed and I was left rattled after a few blood spurts. This was very much like a psychological thriller and Sweeney was just so dark and creepy, it was perfect.

There were several stand out numbers in the production and one of my favourites would have to have been the pie shop scene. Mrs Lovett was absolutely incredible and as good as anyone you would expect to see in a Broadway show.

I always like that the shows at South Hill Park often use the audience for scenes or to walk around. It really feels like you're a part of the show - I was loving it so much to the point where I felt I was actually enveloped in the scenes.

Another very colourful character for me was Pirelli - that Italian has some tricks up his sleeve, adding to the twist and turns of the tale. Some of it was savage! Big props to whoever came up with the amazing chair and set combination scene. (It will all make sense if you go and watch...)

Everything was so visual and crafted carefully.

The scene outside Bedlam with the patients pawing at the windows was like something out of AMC's *The Walking Dead* - it was fabulous! I honestly didn't want to leave at the end.

This was right up my street. I would say beware of Mr Todd, but also beware of getting the songs stuck in your head. I found myself screeching Sweeney in falsetto in my car on the way home.

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