

### **Jazz prescription-Arts and Lits-Princes theatre 4/2/2013.**

`It's a wonderful world` (the Louis Armstrong `hit` tune) was a fitting encore reflecting a magnificent night of music of many genres given by Jeremy Sassoon and his fellow musicians for `Arts and Lits` most recent presentation. With ample `light and shade` and attention to minute detail given to every piece presented, this was truly yet another triumph for those who serve marvellous entertainment for our `pallets` each week, on Monday nights, during the winter period. We were reminded of many facts (some rather obscure-some best forgotten!?) about Clacton, as Jeremy had taken the trouble earlier to look on `the web` -(Wikipedia)-we were not around (even our oldest member could not claim otherwise!?) when our distant Clacton ancestors, early man, raised his body off `all fours`, emerged from a cave on the rugged seafront and added a new dimension to his daily life by fashioning a hunting axe (they even had the tenacity to have it with them on stage!??)

My particular favourite was the very tender and emotional rendition of the Nat `King` Cole hit-`Nature boy`-it was breathtaking and throughout the whole night's performance the audience showed their approval at each juncture when one of the ensemble `took a solo.`

Jeremy (showing us that he was not only a very adept musician-at the grand piano) used his silky smooth voice to excellent effect, but he was not afraid to also show the `gravelly` side of it, with renditions of songs made famous by the late, great, Ray Charles.

`Georgia`-is a `standard` that almost brought a tear to my and many other's eyes. The acoustic bass and (in the second half the electric one) was skilfully handled by the wonderful talent that is Richard Hammond (I'm sure he's heard all the `top gear` jokes!??). On percussion, Elliot Henshaw presented a steady and sympathetic beat that fitted every moment perfectly as he moved seamlessly through the range of varied tunes. On soprano and tenor sax (not at all afraid to show his emotions in movement as well) was the incredibly versatile Derek Nash-the musical ensemble was completed with the rhythm guitar (sometimes lead) of Al Cherry-an extremely gifted and obviously accomplished virtuoso of the instrument.

I spoke to several patrons afterwards and they all agreed that it was a super evening and that they had been pleasantly surprised-this was jazz that they could engage with!

The `prescription` is one pill that we will eagerly swallow without any need whatsoever for a sweetener-another dose is needed in the not too distant future!!

Jennifer Kersey

