

REVIEWS

What: Miss Saigon.

Where: Founders Theatre.

When: Saturday.

Reviewed by: Rob Kidd.

We've all been there, torn between the beautiful blonde and the gorgeous Asian. Well, some of us have.

You should know the story by now: Chris, a US sergeant in Vietnam, meets naive local girl Kim, gets her up the duff and then goes home to his wife Ellen.

Eventually there's a showdown in Bangkok where Chris chooses the blonde and a distraught Kim tries to make him take his son Tam back to the US.

Needless to say, like with all love triangles there's no happy ending.

Hamilton Musical Theatre risked a lot by joining a consortium to put on this classic but it paid off.

The set was incredible – from the massive illuminated US flag backdrop to the enormous golden face of Ho Chi Minh and the very

realistic helicopter scene – it almost stole the show.

And with a lesser cast it probably would have.

From the first scene in the sleazy Dreamland club where the stage came alive with bikini-clad girls and raucous marines, the choreography and singing were beautifully polished.

The music was brilliantly executed and even the silhouette of the conductor's flailing arms on the wall could not detract from the spectacle.

In fact it probably added drama if anything.

The first scene of the second act, with almost all male cast members on stage, was particularly stirring but overall it was difficult to pick standouts when the standard was so consistently high.

Nick Wilkinson as the engineer and James Adams as Chris were both strong but I'm sure they would admit the show was stolen by the stunning Tina Bergantinos as Kim.

Unbelievably it was her first

musical-theatre show but with such a delicate yet powerful voice I hope it was not her last.