

Local Affairs

A play by Richard Harris
Performed in May 1987
Produced by Carolyn Taylor

Local affairs were a riot

WITH their two-act comedy, *Local Affairs*, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday last week Faringdon Community Dramatic Society proved that, when it comes to choosing a script and presenting a polished performance, they've got it down to a fine art.

Local Affairs, a brilliantly conceived Aykourn-type comedy, was peppered with countless one-liners. That, and the deadpan delivery by a fine cast, meant a superb evening's entertainment.

The set represented three different houses on a new 12-unit development. They also served at times as one house for three sets of neighbours.

Making his Faringdon debut was a young Northerner, Paul Grassham, who is living locally while on a course. As Keith, he partnered pert and pretty Gail Mander (Susan). They'd sent their twins off to grandmother.

Opposite live Charles and Norma, a splendid pair of neurotics - she plugged into her newly-created pond and its weeping willow while he, a doctor, searched vainly for a nervous breakdown. Mike Durham (Charles) preparing for a fancy-dress party appeared briefly as a DIY Batman; with a chair-leg strung at right-angles to his knees

as Long John Silver, and settled for the rest of the evening's events in drag. He claimed to be Marlene Dietrich - and despite, his powerful bulk, somehow managed to remind one of a worried gerbil in a brick out-house. Carole Tappenden breezed merrily through her role as his wife and mistress of the acid tongue.

The third neighbours were the 'divine David' (Alan Taylor) and his wife Hilary (Sandra Holland) - also perfectly matched in the sniping wars.

Their unique main bone of contention was David's doting Mum, who managed to infiltrate everybody's lives. This role brought back Nancy Reeves in scintilla ting form as a querulous old biddy.

Finally, her son Tim Reeves, laid-back as an anaesthetist colleague of Dr Charles. He turned up looking, enchanting as The Man in the White Suit and large, floppy fedora for the still debatable fancy-dress party and was eventually diverted by Keith and Susan's visitor Katy (Brenda Keith-Walker) who was just simply "too, too super."

Producer Carolyn Taylor has every reason to be proud of this troupe and her back stage helpers.

IVY CURZON