

Good movers light up 'black' comedy

Faringdon Community Theatre player Dave Headey has had to work particularly hard to restore his real persona, after a larger-than-life characterisation as the limp-wristed Harold Gorringer, in Peter Shaffer's play, *Black Comedy*.

Dave and Deidre Hamley, playing the unfamiliarly-inebriated neighbour Miss Furnival, worked a wonderful double act to back up the leading parts taken with great skill by Nick Hobden, as the hapless victim of circumstance, Brindsley Miller, and Mary Green, as Carol Melkett, his yuppie betrothed.

But in this instance, particular credit must be also be paid to someone not on the stage, or even behind it — the lighting man, Tim Reeves. For this unusual production relies on a reverse-effect, where the audience sees everything that is going on when the lights of the set are apparently fused, but the cast acts as though in darkness. Timing and



co-operation between actors and lighting man are, therefore, crucial. And they worked perfectly, as did the all-essential props, masterminded by Jeni Summerfield. Set construction, too, was superb, thanks to Alan and Carolyn Taylor, Irene and Walther Schoonenberg, Jo and Peter Webster and Carole and Jim Tappenden.

This situation comedy draws its laughs from stage movements as much as dialogue. And the producer, Carolyn Taylor, must be congratulated for choreographing her cast superbly. As they stumbled and fumbled around the set, all were both convincing and amusing.

Peter Webster did his best with

the part of the crusty, ex-military blustering father, but the actor's own niceness prevented him, perhaps, from playing it quite as heavily as it deserved. And Debbie Lock floated decoratively, if a little tentatively, through what is admittedly rather an odd role — at the same time ghostly yet real, as Clea, the lost love returned. Walther Schoonenburg was happily typecast as the German-born electrician Schuppanzigh who is mistaken for an expected millionaire VIP, and Roger Leitch made a fleeting last-minute appearance as the real millionaire, Georg Bamberger.

All in all, an unusual play expertly produced and very entertaining.

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(continued from opposite page) chances went begging, and some good football was being played by both sides. A Le Mêle attack and a trip inside the box resulted in a penalty, and up stepped their No. 10 who struck the ball hard and straight, but goalkeeper Michael Kelly stood upright until the last moment, saw the ball, and was able to parry it before collecting it at the second attempt — much to the delight of the travelling fans. Half-time was still 1-nil, and time for a tough team talk from the manager.

It was Faringdon's turn to put pressure on. A through ball from Matt Piercey gave top scorer Cragh Lynn a run on goal which he took with a good left-foot strike, to make

it 1-1. At this stage, Faringdon were all over the opposition, but failed to capitalise on chances. A breakaway by Le Mêle, and a mishit shot-cum-chip looped over the goalie to make it 2-1 at the final whistle. It was a good game of football, played in atrocious weather but enjoyable for both sides. ★

There was a celebration dinner and dance in the village hall at St Aubin after the match, during which Paul Kelly thanked everyone on behalf of Faringdon boys. M Daniel Goulet, Le Mêle's President, replied. There was more sightseeing and yet more banqueting on the Sunday, before the often tearful farewells, and a return trip to Portsmouth from Caen.