

**'Reflections 1914-18 written and compiled by Carolyn Taylor**

presented by **Faringdon Dramatic Society** in November 2014

The hours of research Director Carolyn Taylor spent compiling this production was obvious to all. She blended the selection of letters, songs and poems together seamlessly.

Three Narrators, with headlines and photos on a screen, linked the dates and information together.

The Parade (and freezes) of the cast of twenty two - soldiers with straight backs and their ladies who were left behind - were thoughtfully choreographed to make best use of the 'in the round' space. This allowed every seat in the large audience a good view.

Early on in the production, words written in the Programme helped us all to happily sing along with different cast members.

Slick, silent moving of the sets was helped by the tinkling piano playing the old songs. A Lyons Tea Room scene with three ladies (a new widow and a lady happily going to work in a munitions factory 'twelve hours a day but good money'), and two men, too old to go to war but reading out Newspaper stories about it being 'over by Christmas,' cleverly gave us more information.

Letters home from the front with Wilfred Owen sitting at one end of the stage, writing to his Mother, who was sitting, diagonally, at the other end of the stage - simple but effective.

An authentic German accent from Richard Lock - not an 'Allo Allo' in sight.

Attractive, period wardrobe - Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee and Lynda Bates and also a lovely solo by Jeni Summerfield 'Keep The Home Fires Burning' - I knew she could act, I didn't know she could sing!

From the red poppies and black and white soldier silhouettes on the front of the Programme to the Finale - this was 'Silent Night' sung in English, French and German, a brilliant, moving idea, this production was a class act.

An obvious labour of love from Carolyn Taylor and the whole team at Faringdon Dramatic Society

Deidre Jones