



Society : Faringdon Dramatic Society.
Production : *Wife After Death*, by Eric Chappell.
Date : 9th November 2013.
Venue : Faringdon Junior School.
Report by : Gareth Jeremy, - Region 12, - London.

Report

My thanks to **Jo Webster**, for the invitation to review your latest production. It is always a pleasure to attend your plays, and pantomimes, as so much work, and dedication is put in to the productions, by a number of individuals, and it is pleasing to see that your membership keeps up well, as in so many towns it is on the decline, for many different reasons, so you are fortunate that you still have the interest for different people who may wish to audition for different plays.

This was the first time for me to see '**Wife After Death**', -- and like many others in the audience, we had a very entertaining evening, -- and if some of the audience were there for the first time, -- I'm sure they will be back again.!

As I have stated before, when producing your publicity, -- it is always advisable to state something about the author, and what he / she has done in the past. The title could put some people off, but when an explanation is given,-- as was done in your programme, -- then people can sit back, and relax, and wait !!

This was a witty comedy, --- played by some excellent thespians.

The action of the play takes place in **Laura Thursby's** spacious sitting room. Act 1 takes place on 'an afternoon in the Summer'. And Act 2 -- 'Three weeks later'.

When the curtain opened, the **Set, designed by Jo Webster, and built by members of the Society, --- deserved a 'round of applause.** -- it was superb, no detail had been omitted, -- very elegant chairs, and sofa, nice coffee table, drinks table, - well stocked ! -- and even the coffin (loaned by the **Co -- operative Funeral Care**), did not look out of place, but as was mentioned by (Harvey), - he would have preferred David, to have been in the 'Chapel of Rest) !

The set was 'strongly 'constructed', -as when the door opened, etc no part of the set moved. -- it had been painted well, and the 'wall papering' had been well hung, - and very 'striking'.

Cast in order of appearance.

Laura Thursby, ---- Amanda Linstead.

An experienced performer, who looked good on stage, her diction and presentation was of a very high standard, -- and she made good use of the stage.

Vi Barrett, ---- Carolyn Taylor.

Harvey Barrett, - Andy Pritchard.

I do not wish to separate these two characters, -- as they played the husband, and wife partnership, --- they were **excellent, --- very large character parts to play,** being on stage for the majority of the play. -- their diction, facial expressions, use of the stage was faultless, -- they had studied their characters thoroughly., -- and they dictated the pace of the play well, -- Congratulations to you both.

Kevin Prewitt, ---- Richard Lock.

Richard again knew exactly how to play his role, -- he showed his anger as to how he had been treated by David, but was not aware of it at the time, -- and at his frustration of his wife's goings on , -- in the cupboard with David also. -- and to his



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dislike of Harvey, -- he was a very complicated character, but he understood his role well. Congratulations also.

Jayne Prewitt, --- Sandra Keen.

Another 'strong', performance. --- quite a contrast from when she entered the stage for the first time, -- to her exit at the end of the play. Very good make up, -- and again another polished performance.

Kay, ----- Katie Dyet.

The 'mystery', lady in the play, --- when all was revealed.! -- played the role again in a very professional manner, -- looked elegant on stage, and made use of every metre of it, -- she kept the audience guessing, as to what she would say next. Good, clear diction, and some eye catching 'facial expressions.' -- another first class performance.

Garry Field, --- Director.

Garry, knows this Society very well, and he knows their capabilities, -- as individuals. -- he knew what he wanted from this play, -- and he got it --100%. The individuals in the play knew exactly what was expected of them, -- and as a group they had studied their characterisation, -- and the whole play came together, at pace revealing the witty comedy that Eric Chappell had intended.

I am sure you all had an enjoyable time at rehearsals, and the end result was certainly worth while .

Production Team'

I have said it many times, -- all the audience see is what is on stage, -- but where would any production be -- **without all those loyal workers behind the footlights.—the lighting crew, sound, props, continuity, publicity, bar, front of house, and Programme.**

I will just mention the programme by Dave Headey, who is very experienced at producing it. I liked it set up, and those extra little interesting bits, regarding the author, the 'Obituary', -- and your past productions since 1949..

Thanks once again for a very entertaining evening, and I look forward to your next production of -- 'The Scarlet Pumpernickel', in the New Year.

Gareth Jeremy

**NODA, -- Regional Representative
Region 12 London.**