

National Operatic & Dramatic Association

London Area Report



Society
Production
Date
Venue
Report by

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY
Noises Off
November 8 th 2006
Faringdon Junior School
Gareth Jeremy. Region 12

My thanks to your secretary, Karen Whiffen, for the invitation to review your latest production. I always look forward to my visit to your Society, as you always make one feel welcomed, and not as if the enemy has arrived. !! I have said it before, there always seems to be a strong community spirit amongst your membership, and you seem proud to ~e wearing your Faringdon D.S. sweat shirts.--- which is good.

I was really looking forward to this production, as I had seen it professionally played at Milton Keynes last year. Wait for it, ---- and your production was by far the best. !

It was interesting to listen to some of the comments in the Hall before the play started. Some of the audience seemed rather confused, at having as it were Two programmes, --- Noises Off, and 'Nothing On'. !! However , after reading Director Dave Headey's introduction to the play, there was a buzz of excitement, and everyone was waiting for the curtain to go up.---- and were we disappointed ?? --certainly not. I can sum up the entire evening in one word, --- Brilliant. !

The cast, in order of appearance were; --

Lesley Phillips, --- as Dotty Otley. Daniel Lander, --- as Lloyd Dallas. Jeff Barry, ----- as Garry Lejeune. Alex Oliver, ---- as Brook Ashton. Debbie Lock, --- as Poppy Norton- Taylor. Simon Wisbey, --- as Frederick Fellowes. Sarah Varnom, --- as Belinda Blair. Rob Thorpe, ----- as Tim Allgood. Roger Leitch, --- as Selsdon Mowbray.

This is the first time in Fifteen Years, as N.O.D.A. rep, that I will not be saying something, about each individual character, --- Why ?? -- because they were all 'first class'. --- The timing, diction, facial expressions, mannerisms, of each character was faultless. I can appreciate the hours of hard work that had been put into the production by everyone concerned. The way Act 2 came across, when every one had to do every thing 'back to front', as it were. This form of acting needs dedication, high levels of concentration, by everyone, on stage. --- I did not spot a mistake through-out the entire Act, but one was kept glued to all the action taking place. Director,--- Dave Headey, and Assistant director Carolyn Taylor, must have spent many hours, working out how they wanted the play to be appreciated by the audience. They were also fortunate to have such an experienced and talented group of actors to call upon. I meant to ask Dave, when I spoke to him,---- were auditions held for the parts, or were the cast invited to take the various roles. ? I'm sure that which ever way it was,---- you all gave of your best,--- and can look back as it being, possibly one of the highlights of your acting abilities, to date. Congratulations to you all.

The Set. ----- designed by Rob Thorpe, Nick Evans, and Tim Evans and CONSTRUCTED, by Gary Field, Richard Lock, Alan Merrick, Paul Mountford- Lister, Peter Webster.---- this was a Solid, well built set, ---- it had to be; -- with all the movement up and down the stairs, and in and out of the various doors, and window. The staircase had to be built from 4 by 2 to take the way Garry, brilliantly, fell down the stairs,--- or is this a case of it should have been questioned by Health, and Safety experts.???

The Production Team; ---- No play can succeed without the hard, and dedicated work of those behind the scenes. From front of house, to serving drinks at the interval, or selling raffle tickets, everyone is doing their ' bit' for the Society.

The Programme, --- Dave Headey, Daniel Lander. ---was well laid out, gave all the relevant information, and that little bit extra about the Society,--- Congratulations to your Wardrobe Ladies, --- Jeni Summerfield & Joan Lee,---- these two ladies have done so much for your Society over the years; --- and I'm sure have saved you thousands, over the years, -- if you'd had to hire all your costumes, --- look after them !

I wish you every success with your project possibly with Canada. My Society has been involved with our Twin Town in Germany, --- Hennef. We have just returned, having taken a full G & S show there. This was our 10th show in 20 years. We all had a fantastic time,--- but it does take a strain on the Society finances, hiring a lorry to take the set etc. we all pay our own fares ,---- and we certainly enjoy the hospitality, and companionship.

Many thanks for a wonderful evening's entertainment, and I'm sure everyone who came felt likewise and those who didn't make it, --- they missed a treat. I now look forward to Pirates of the Faribbean, -- if asked.

Best Wishes. Gareth Jeremy. Region 12 London Area.

NODA LONDON For Services to Amateur Theatre