



Society : Faringdon Dramatic Society.
Production : Present Laughter.
Date : 2nd November 2012.
Venue : Faringdon Junior School.
Report by : Gareth Jeremy – London Region 12.

Report

As I have stated previously, it is always a privilege to attend your productions, and this was no exception,-- I would even say, it was as good as any production one could see in 'The West End'. The attention to detail through out was outstanding, from the moment the curtain opened,

The Set, --- designed by Jo Webster,-- and built by members, -- Peter Webster, Jeff Barry, Richard Lock, Alan Merrick, and Carole Tappenden, of Garry Essendine's studio flat, was remarkable.

The soft colours used, the curved staircase, the drawings on the wall etc were equal to any ones flat, -- and deserved a round of applause, -- people around me certainly remarked immediately they saw it, ---- but were too Conservative to applaud.

During the interval I spoke to Jo about it, -- and I hope you will submit it for a NODA award next Spring, in readiness for the AGM, which will be the first Sunday in July 2013.

It was so refreshing to see everything set as of the world in the 1940's
The Costumes, Hairstyles, Shoes and Seamed Stockings. Etc.—and I did like the choice of 'background music', when required.

The show was **Directed by Jeff Barry, and Produced by Jo Webster.** I'm sure they had thought long, and hard about the characters in the show, -- and what they would wish to achieve from such a flamboyant writer as Noel Coward. --- the cast they chose, did them credit, -- and it was obvious that the cast themselves understood the characters they were playing. --- there wasn't a weak link amongst them.

Obviously in such a play, some characters have much more to do than others, but in each case they 'backed ' each other throughout, and the play moved at a good pace., -- and made good use of all entrances and exits

The Cast.

Daphne Stillington, --- Jayne Isham.

Looked good on stage, and was relaxed, there were times when she rushed her dialogue a little, and this in turn affected her diction, so be careful, otherwise well done.

Miss Erkson, --- Joan Lee.

A beautiful cameo part, -- I would have preferred to call her --**Fag Ash Lil'** (**sorry**). From the moment she came on stage, she gave it her all, --- superb facial expressions, -- and there was nothing going to fluster her. Congratulations.

Fred, ---- Austen Roberts.

Stood upright on stage, which I like to see of a butler / servant. Delivered his lines well, and obviously got on very well with his boss.

Monica Reed, ---- Janie Eyre – Brook.

A very experienced actress, -- who understood exactly how to 'handle ' , her flamboyant, extrovert, boss. She was the 'perfect' secretary, who could handle most



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situations, and knew exactly the type of boss she had.— her diction, and facial expressions, especially when she and Liz were together, were excellent.
A very worthy performance.

Garry Essendine, --- Peter McGurk.

What a performance, ! --- and what a memory, -- I hope this is the first of many performances for FDS.

You held your audience 'spell bound', for the entire production.—the change in your moods, - the frustrations that you felt at times, -- the image of being the 'best actor' in the world, -- all these facets you expressed in a very professional manner.

Diction, facial expressions, and the full use of the stage were exemplary
Congratulations, on a superb performance, --- you now deserve a rest for a short while. !

Liz Essendine, ---- Amanda Linstead.

Looked good on stage, and had studied her character well, - she was on the one hand a little sympathetic to her 'womanizing', ex husband, and on the other hand a little jealous of his exploits, but was very clever as to not to show him too readily.—and she had the perfect support from Monica.

Excellent diction,, and a fine performance.

Roland Maule, ---- Simon Potter.

I'm glad I did not have to shake hands with him during the interval!
He gave a very good performance, and some of the people sitting near me did say, -- 'is he right in the head'? – good vision of the character, and it was very convincing, -- Well done.

Henry Lyppiat, ---- Richard Lock.

Morris Dixon, -----John Sudworth.

I do not wish to separate these two characters, as they were in a sense 'the 'dual' supporting role. --- They did everything that was expected of them in a simple, but direct manner, -- and their facial expressions at times told us exactly what they were thinking about Garry.

Joanna Lyppiat, ---- Karen Irving.

Came across to the audience very well. I wonder if she had forgotten her house key to any other gentlemen.?

Looked good on stage, excellent costume, and the two 'hair – do's were amazing. One small point, -- I would have liked to have seen you using a cigarette holder , when you smoked. I think many ladies in the 40's would have, especially the upper class. – a strong performance.

Lady Saltburn. ---- Carolyn Taylor.

Next time I see you, -- I will have to bow, or curtsy. !



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How nice to have this type of cameo role, and you carried it off to perfection. Your stage craft ,and experience really showed Congratulations.

As mentioned earlier, the attention to detail was exceptional, and I must congratulate the **Props Team of Carole Tappenden, Emma Riddle**, for what they had collected,-- if one takes Act 111, -- the number of wine bottles scattered about, --- they must have had some party.??

Programme, --- Dave Headey.

It contained all the relevant information, and cast profiles, -- as you had a blank back page, -- do you think it would be possible to print a little more about NODA, -- so that the general public can be made more aware of your success as a Society in the London Region during the past years, --when you have received many awards.

I did not see anything Front of House this year either, in the form of photographs of the cast, previous productions etc.—they may have been in some other part of the Hall.

I nearly forgot, -- **to the Lighting, and Sound Team of Ian Chandler, Paul & Tim Mountford – Lister**, -- a big thank you once more, -- the telephone was quite busy all evening. – the stage was well lit.

To everyone else who helped in the Production Team, -- Thank you all for a splendid evenings entertainment, --- it's the Team Work, that helps to make a production successful.

I look forward to your Pantomime, -- oh yes I do.

Please find enclosed your Certificate of Nomination for your Pantomime – Cinderella, which no one could attend at our AGM in July 2012.

Gareth Jeremy, --- London Region 12.