

Daisy Pulls It Off

A comedy by Denise Deegan
Performed in November 2001 at Faringdon Junior School

High praise as town's thespians 'pull it off'

I RECENTLY saw Faringdon Dramatic Society's latest play, *Daisy Pulls it Off*, by Denise Deegan. Once again, it was up to their usual standard of excellence.

The action takes place at Grangewood, a girls' public school in the 1920's, and the players recreated the appropriate atmosphere to perfection.

The lead was taken by Sarah Couzens, a 'new girl' in the society, who gave a very convincing performance as Daisy.

Joan Lee, an old hand in the dramatic society, who clearly enjoyed being back at school again, was very compelling as her friend Trixie Martin.

Daisy's tormentors, the snobbish and bullying Sybil Burlington and her toady sidekick Monica Smithers were played by Rachel Coward and Amanda Linstead 'who had me fooled as to their real ages, and the head girl, Claire Beaumont and her friend and deputy head girl, Alice Fitzpatrick were played with much gusto by Carolyn Taylor and Lois Wells.

Other pupils were Belinda Mathieson, Dora Johnson, and Winnie Irving, who were played by Mary Mountford-Lister, Rachel Kennedy, and Carol Thompson respectively, none of whom had had much, if any, experience 'treading the boards', but who played their roles

The austere English teacher, Miss Granville, was played by an eloquent Juliana Cleal, and Lucy Walden gave a classic performance as the excitable French Mademoiselle.

Karen Price played the piano as the school pianist, and also appeared briefly as Daisy's mother, while Nick Coard appeared at the end as Mr Thompson and did an excellent job of tying up all the loose ends.

The set, which transported us to Grangewood School, was designed by Jo Webster, and the costumes, which did such a good job of transforming the players into schoolchildren were the work of Jeni Summerfield and Joan Lee.

Much credit must go to the director, John Taylor, and his assistant, Debbie Lock, who created such a convincing atmosphere.

It was hard to believe that many of the schoolgirls were in fact mothers whose children are too old to be still at school!

On the Saturday evening it was announced during the interval that the society had won the Ron Kench Shield for Drama award for their performance of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' in June.

This performance, of 'Daisy', continued to uphold those standards.

extremely effectively.

The staff, the stern but kindly headmistress, Miss Gibson, was played by an impressive Carole Tappenden, and Peter Webster was persuasive as the enigmatic music teacher, Mr Scoblowski.

Roger Leitch

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