

Faringdon Folly

Good acting marred by poor sound

FOR their latest production, Willy Russell's *Educating Rita* at Faringdon Junior School in November, the Faringdon Dramatic Society has once again proved that it is not afraid of tack-ling a difficult play. This is a wordy piece containing both humour and pathos, and as a two-hander places great responsibility on the actors concerned. They certainly rose to the challenge with great bravura, and they maintained their characters and the pace brilliantly throughout, for which the audience showed their appreciation.

The plot concerns Frank (played by Simon Wisbey), a university tutor and failed poet, world weary, cynical, unhappily married, and with a growing dependence on whiskey to keep himself going.

Into his life bursts Rita (Lesley Phillips), a young hairdresser with no formal qualifications, but hungry to find some meaning in life. She has embarked on an Open University course with Frank as her tutor. The play was ably directed by Rachel Coward and Rob Thorpe, and the set was very well detailed as a university study. It was perhaps a drawback that the desk was positioned upstage since most of the action took place around it. Consequently, for those at the rear, the dialogue was at times barely audible. Maybe this problem arose because of the poor acoustics of the hall, or from a lack of projection by the actors. Whatever, it is something to be watched for in the future.

Jeanette Grace