

National Operatic & Dramatic Association

London Area Report



Society
Production
Date
Venue
Report by

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY
Lend Me a Tenor
28-29 September 2007
Faringdon Junior School
Gareth Jeremy. Region 12

Firstly, my thanks to Karen Whiffen, for inviting me to this production.

I'm sure your Society is grateful to Kate Lord, for making contact with the Garrison Little Theatre.

I'm sure you all had a busy week, but an enjoyable one, in each others company. Faringdon must be a lot quieter this week!! I'm sure many of your members, who are able to go, are looking forward to the trip to Canada, next May 2008 – and I'm sure the audiences there will thoroughly enjoy Outside Edge by Richard Harris. (You may have to explain some of the cricket rules beforehand!!). Good luck to you all, and I'm sure many friendships have been formed, which will last for many years – and in the future, for both societies. My own Society in Banbury has been linked with Hannef (Germany) for the past 25 years, and we visit them with a show every two years, and many of our members make private visits too.

Darka Makarec (Director) made an excellent choice, with this show. It also meant that the liaison required "backstage" with the Faringdon group – the Set could be kept fairly simple – and we know how well the "Faringdon Set Construction Team" work to build strong, solid sets, which will last any "heavy handed" use of doors etc. I'm sure a lot of correspondence had taken place over a number of months to make sure that the Set, Wardrobe, props, Lighting, Sound etc were as required – and that proof was there for the audience to see – everything seemed to run like clockwork. As mentioned in the programme, James Reid (Assistant Director) had a large input into the show that came to Faringdon.

As to the show – the cast profiles showed that the group of actors were experienced, and very talented, who had learned their stage craft over a number of years. Their diction was clear, timing precise, mannerisms and facial expressions superb, especially Brian Huney, as Bellhop. He kept it up throughout the entire show, when he appeared on stage. Well done to all of you.

It would be wrong of me to comment on each individual actor, because they were a very accomplished set of actors – there was not a weak link amongst them – and I thought that they appreciated the audience's reactions to certain parts of the show – and I'm sure it made them feel very relaxed, but they didn't lose their concentration.

One or two small personal points – during the opening ten minutes of the show, I felt there was too much "standing around" on the set; more use perhaps could have been made of the settee, which was centre stage. Also I would have liked to have seen a little more care with Max's make-up, when he was being made up to look like the real world famous Tito Morelli. There was far too much "white" showing along the neckline, and also his hands. Perhaps some "platform" boots to make him taller – so that the audience would have had no doubts!! Both their costumes were fantastic. Congratulations to the wardrobe team.

The programme was well presented by Dave Headey. All the information was clear and precise – good quality paper was used, and the photographs of the cast profiles very clear. Everyone from the Faringdon society did their "behind the scenes" jobs in a very professional manner – and it was a change for some of them to enjoy being entertained, rather than having to do the entertaining under the footlights.

Thank you, Garrison Little Theatre, for a very enjoyable evenings' entertainment – we had a good laugh – and that's part of the fun.

I hope both Societies have gained, and shared thoughts from the experience – and I do hope that in years to come, there will be a return visit to Faringdon.

Gareth Jeremy, Region 12, London Area