

NATIONAL OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION LONDON REGION

Society ; Twyford & Ruscombe Theatre Group
Production ; *"Role Play"*
Date ; Friday 15th May 2009
Venue ; Loddon Hall, Twyford
Report by ; Henry Hawes - NODA Representative - Area 13

On Friday 15th May 2009 I was pleased to be invited to review Twyford and Ruscombe Theatre Groups latest production *"Role Play"* by Alan Ayckbourn. This is one of Ayckbourn's more recent plays and one I hadn't seen before so I took my seat in anticipation, being a devotee of this playwright. I was not disappointed. This play had been well cast with just the right characterisations being brought out by the director. The lines had been well pointed so that all the humour was brought out and I could find nothing wrong with the staging, all contained in an excellent set.

Polly Barker - (JULIE-ANN JOBSON)

James Bogumska-Higgins - (JUSTIN LAZENBY) - These two were exactly right as the ill-matched young couple whose carefully planned evening is ruined by the unexpected arrival of two uninvited guests and which caused the ensuing mayhem. Both acted their roles very well with confident movement, good diction and projection so that every word could be heard - Well done.

Kim Castle - (PAIGE PETITE)

Mike Brooks - (MICKEY RALE) - Kim as the lap dancer 'Paige Petite', played her role well, being an uninvited guest. She developed an excellent voice characterisation which was sustained throughout and her exhibition of her lap dancing routine was well danced causing consternation among certain members of the cast. Mike as 'The Minder' had also developed an excellent character, here again we had a voice characterisation which was sustained throughout. Lines were well pointed which brought out all the comedy in these two roles - Well done.

Frank Kaye - (DEREK JOBSON)

Ann Pitts - (DEE JOBSON) - Again here was another couple who made their characters both realistic and believable as the parents of 'Julie-Ann', both presented fussy and protective parents and with the way the lines were delivered, all the humour was brought out and which had me laughing out loud as

was the audience. Two characters that couldn't be bettered - Well done.

Melanie Sherwood - (ARABELLA LAZENBY) - As Justin's alcoholic mother, Melanie was superb. It is so easy to go 'over the top' on this type of character, but just the right balance was achieved with some excellent acting which made the role that much more believable - Congratulations.

Val Aves - (PRODUCER, DIRECTOR & LAP DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER) - Val had done a great job in the casting of this play. She brought out all the facets of the characters personalities and ensured that the performances were first-class. Staging was excellent with good movement within the set. Diction and projection by members of the cast was good so that every word could be heard and the whole show had pace with well picked up and pointed lines. Congratulations on the lap dance choreography, most realistic.

Stage Manager & Set Design - A well managed stage with no visible problems and the set design ensured it gave a good representation of a riverside apartment and at the same time making the most of the space available.

Set Construction - This was a well constructed set and it looked solid and was a credit to the set builders - Congratulations

Set Dressing - The set dressing had been well carried out with every detail considered, giving a good representation of this type of apartment.

Scenic Artists - The decor had been well thought out and applied being the 'icing on the cake' of an excellent set - Well done.

Wardrobe - The unsung heroes of the wardrobe department had ensured the cast had been dressed in appropriate costumes and which fitted their individual characters.

Lighting Design & Operation - The lighting plot had been well thought out with good positioning of lamps ensuring the right atmosphere was generated on stage in the various scenes. Cues were well picked up.

Sound Design & Operation - A good sound plot which ensured the dialogue could be heard without distortion and was well operated on the night of my visit.

Properties - An impressive line-up of properties, all pertinent to the plot and looking authentic.

Make-up - Make-up appeared to have been well applied and looked good under the stage lighting.

Programme - A neat little programme which contained all the necessary information coupled with interesting biographies.

Front of House - Smart, friendly and helpful.

Thank you for your invitation to a most enjoyable and humorous evenings entertainment and I wish you all succes with your next production "**Wyrd Sisters**".

Henry

Henry Hawes - NODA Representative - Area 13