



*noda*

Professional support  
for amateur theatre

**Welwyn, Rayners Avenue, Loudwater,  
Bucks HP10 9SL**

**Friday, 22 October 2010**

Dear Adrian,

Thank you for inviting me to review your latest production a copy of which I have enclosed.

You will see from the review that I very much enjoyed the play and look forward to an invitation to Robin Hood in January of next year.

With all good wishes,



Rita Carpenter  
Regional Representative 11a

**National Operatic and Dramatic Association**

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Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber



Society : Richings Players  
Production : Steel Magnolias  
Date : 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
Venue : Iver Village Hall  
Report by : Rita Carpenter

Report

### OVERVIEW

Staged in the round it was an ideal choice for the intimacy required in this production, Richings Players have a large membership and obviously have no difficulty in casting their productions. Every member of this cast was well chosen with strong performances throughout. It is not always easy to maintain an accent especially the deep Southern one from America but they all maintained their accents throughout with no hesitation whatsoever. As the story unfolded the audience were made aware of the strong friendship between the women which developed over a period of time, their little foibles but also the love and esteem in which they held each other. The only criticism I would make is that there should have been more movement of the characters. Standing with their backs to any part of the audience for a length of time sometimes lost the dialogue which was commented on by some elderly members of the audience in my hearing.

### STAGING AND SET

The set was excellent and the props were well placed to give the illusion of a busy beauty salon. Lighting by **Les Brewer** and sound by **Robin Bishop** were extremely effective and added to the atmosphere.

### FRONT OF HOUSE AND PROGRAMME

We received a warm welcome on arrival and I was offered a glass of wine before the start of the show. The programme had a beautifully designed front page, a good section on NODA and with photographs and C.V's of the cast which is always so helpful when writing a review.

### THE CAST

**Alison Elcoat** gave a fine performance as the owner of the beauty salon, bringing just the right amount of fussiness to the role. **Sally Vigurs** played the role of the inexperienced and unworldly assistant. It was really good to see her development from an unsure youngster into a confident young lady. The role of Clairee Belcher as the mature woman of the group was competently played by **Maureen Worrall**, not the best of roles but she made it her own with style. **Evelyn Wilson** as Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie brought a mature feeling to her role with a competent demonstration of emotion, she was delightful. Shelby's mother M'Lynn Eatenton was skillfully played by **Lisa de la Salle** as the rather bossy and controlling but extremely

caring parent. In the final scene her performance had many of the audience wiping away their tears. Last but by no means least was the acerbic Ouiser Boudreaux brilliantly played by **Amanda Norfolk** she had some of the best lines and used them to full effect.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

Masterfully directed by **Adrian Uzzel** this play, although having a somber and somewhat sad theme had an innovative script with plenty of laughter which was well brought out by the experienced cast. It was an excellent choice for the group and it is easy to see why Richings Players are so popular when they can stage plays this appealing.