

NOBODY'S PERFECT

by Simon Williams

Performed by Richings Players at Iver Village Hall, Iver, Bucks.
9 – 12 May 2007

Many thanks for inviting me to your latest production, a new play to me personally. Simon Williams' very funny script, so well interpreted and staged by the Richings Players, made for a very enjoyable evening.

Although this is only my third visit to your venue I do feel very much at home at the Iver Village Hall and your front of house welcome is second to none in our NODA region.

As in life initial impressions are important but not everything – the 'village' atmosphere generated by your group is something that sometimes gets a little lost at the larger theatres.

Enough wittering – now to the show. Technically I thought the production was pretty faultless with some nice sound effects very well cued – excellent lighting, very effective, well designed. The set design and construction was terrific, it worked so well cleverly extended to the sides with access to the house front door through the auditorium. I liked the play's opening with Lotte entering her office whilst the house lights were up and some of the audience still not seated. Generally the direction of this play was very thoughtful and a great debut for Joe Gibbs and Michael Lucas. All the cast acted their socks off and worked off each other superbly particularly Warren Palmer as Myrtle and Lotte Fletcher-Jonk as Harriet during their long scene in Act II. This skilfully directed and acted scene made us laugh and cry with the chemistry (a much abused term!) between these two fine actors – simply perfect – well done!

Madeleine Taylor as the daughter Dee Dee started just a little quietly but grew nicely into the part – gaining confidence and of course so her voice projection improved throughout the show. Congratulations, you are good.

Another well played character was Gus (David Bainbridge) as the very active and interesting granddad – tricky this making a young forty something actor age twenty-five plus years. However, you

did this in the main extremely well – make-up and hairstyle (or lack of it!) very effective and suitable. The dodderly walk was authentic but when you got up and down from the chair it gave it away slightly! You leapt up like a young stag. Perhaps it was those technical running trainers. Also you needed a bit of a belly (all us older men possess them!) However, joking apart, this was a very competent piece of acting, well done.

Lotte as previously mentioned had a great on-stage rapport with Warren during their scenes, superb projection and real stage presence – facial masks, body posture, all round stagecraft. Great stuff!

Worryingly Warren does slip very comfortably into “Panto dame” mode and again in this play was quite superb – a perfect cross between the great Terry Scott and Hyacinth Bouquet. Please accept this as it is meant – a compliment. Every part of your performance hit every spot – brilliant!

Programme design was eye-catching and comprehensive.

So in conclusion – a great choice of play – well staged, well directed, and brilliantly acted – a credit to all of you on and off the stage.

I really do look forward to your next production (if invited).

Thank you for a great evening – my wife and I enjoyed ourselves immensely and more importantly the paying audience had a ball!

Paul Woodstock
NODA Support Representative
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