



Society : Richings Players
Production : The Weekend
Date : 14th May 2010
Venue : Iver Village Hall
Report by : Rita Carpenter

Report

Dear Richings Players,

Thank you for inviting me to your latest production and for the warm welcome I received.

I enclose my Report and, at the request of John have also sent a short review to the Bucks Free Press which has been put on their webpage.

I look forward to being invited to your next production and hope to meet some of you at the Conference in July.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Carpenter".

Rita Carpenter
Regional Representative District 11a

p.s. Thank you for the photos of the scenery



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The Set

Designed by **Robin Bishop** and **Alan Oxley** and built by members of the group it was extremely well constructed featuring a pleasant room with French windows leading to the garden. It was beautifully furnished and well laid out giving the actors enough room to move around the stage, with a very believable kitchen exit and hatch and a very solid front door.....

Lighting and Sound

The lighting was effective especially the alcove leading to the garden and the sound effects from the departing car, the barking dogs and the voice s of **God Warren Palmer** and the wildlife presenter **Adrian Uzzell** during Stephen's 'senior moments' were excellent.

Front of House and Programme

We received a warm welcome from the lady handing out the tickets and **Adrian** the Chairman introduced himself and chatted to us. The programme was well set out with photographs of the cast and details about each of them which makes the job of reviewer considerably easier.

Costumes

These were provided by the cast themselves and in the dinner party scene the ladies looked really gorgeous.

Stephen Febble

John Draper – An experienced actor who relished the chance to take on a leading role.

This was a very large part and John was convincing as the curmudgeonly husband and father being objectionable to everyone but able to demonstrate another side when confessing to his wife the reasons for his behaviour.

Virginia Febble

Louise Hutton played his long suffering wife, nervous and fluttering around endeavouring to keep the peace and placate those upset by Stephen which was all the cast.

Diana

Amanda Norfolk played their daughter I felt her role was a little underplayed and she did not seem to fit comfortable within it.

Alan

David Bainbridge played the rather irritating son-in-law to perfection his laugh was enough to start the audience laughing and his surprising admission before the end of the play put him in a very different light.

Charlotte

Chloe-Marie Bowler was the usual stropky teenager, she looked particularly fetching at the dinner party. Accompanied by **Poppy** kindly loaned by **Yvonne Dormer**. **Poppy** was a delightful and beautifully behaved spaniel.

Duff Gardner

Phil Mison a rather underplayed snake-in-the grass on the council and prepared to risk his long friendship with the Febble couple to further his own ends.

Bridget Duff

Lisa de la Salle was excellent as Duff's wife flirty and lively and purported to be having an affair which was quite feasible being married to the rather boring Duff.

Hugh Bedales

Anthony Salamone skillfully played the philandering chiropodist certainly a ladies man and his flirting with Virginia sending her into a tizzy was a delight to behold.

Mrs Finlay

Tanya Bridgen was convincing as the cleaning lady, although only a small role she played it well.

The Production

Directed by **Sylvia Taylor** the action at times was quite slow and tighter direction would have increased the pace. At times the actors seemed to be hesitating and one wondered whether someone had forgotten their lines as the cast seemed a little unsure of what came next. This is the first time I have had the pleasure of reviewing a play by Richings Players after their fantastic success with Alice. On Friday evening the audience seemed very unresponsive until the final bow when they seemed to come alive, having obviously enjoyed the performance. I know how difficult it is to play to an unresponsive audience. Please be aware I am coming from a different perspective to them .but at times I felt the action was laboured and scene changes could have been slicker. However, the play was well written, funny and also poignant. It was, I think a good choice.