



Society : Chipperfield Théâtre Group
 Production : STEPPING OUT
 Date : July 2007
 Venue :
 Report by : Chipperfield Village Hall

Report

Josie Shingles, NODA London area 10

This delightful comedy drama was excellently staged and performed by your talented cast and I thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end, especially the fabulous ending.

Director Tricia Richardson, assisted by Paul Instrall, had done a marvellous job bringing out all the different aspects of each character, keeping the comedy flowing, with timing especially good which was so important. This is a very very funny play and the audience were rolling in the aisles, along with myself, as we observed their hilarious comings and goings. Of course there was some underlying poignancy too with sadness in people's lives which was not obvious to start with. The entire cast gelled and bounced off one another wonderfully so there was not a moment to catch breath for us or them. There was so much laughter from the audience that we sometimes missed the next line, which was a shame, but I guess if they had paused every time for the laughter to subside we would have been there till midnight.

Choreography by Danielle Marchant was excellent, very well done all round. It must have been difficult to get people to dance badly as they did, but the finale was just amazing and brilliant.

I also had profound admiration not just for their acting but for the many quick changes of costume the cast had. The various different characters were well portrayed and came across as very separate identities and personalities.

Jo Halkett was excellent as Lynne and I warmed to Anne Pinkus as Dorothy the biker with her awkwardness and trying to please all the while. Lisa Heusen was very believable as Mavis the dance teacher with hidden problems and Sue Harvey wonderful as the stropky pianist Mrs Fraser. I also liked very much the portrayal of Wendy Marchant as Maxine, always selling stuff and obviously to help out her financial situation at home and family problems. Wendy East acted very well the shy Andy, not wanting to put herself forward, later we were to discover in an abusive marriage. It was lovely when she formed a friendship with the lone man Geoffrey, bravely played by Rob Hine, plus also to see him emerge from his shell as the ladies got to know him more. Sarah Jayne Bottrill marvellous as the posh bossy Vera who liked to organise everyone so oh so tactless! Plus Rose, played by Debbie Pokorny, who not only looked lovely but was a sweetly comic character to boot. Of course the best part in this play is Sylvia and a gem of a role for any comic actress. Jennifer Heusen certainly got under the skin of this hilarious lady and had a ball with the role. Her antics, timing and overall performance were outstandingly wonderful so I would award her an Oscar for this if I could.

Lighting was excellent as was Sound. We could hear every word clear as a bell. Props too looked very good as did the set design which was very well thought out and built.

Costumes were all really well chosen for the individual characters to wear and looked natural.

My thanks to your committee for asking me along to review your play which as you can tell I really did enjoy very much. Also thanks to Jill and Adrian for their warm welcome and hospitality.

I look forward to Aladdin in January when I have the pleasure of another great night out with your lovely talented company.

Best wishes Josie

Josie.
12/7/07

