

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS - review

After such a professional Pantomime it seemed impossible that the Rotherfield Players could raise their game – but they did! A Bunch of Amateurs is Slick, Funny and with Impeccable Timing! The set, as always was perfect to the last detail and the opening scene with Dorothy (Denise Clarke) and her impassioned plea for her beloved theatre sucked us in to their am dram world and didn't let us go until the end.

All the characters were well rounded and so believable – from the pompous Nigel (James Green), Denis (Mark Austen) with his mum's mobility scooter, simple enthusiasm and naivety which kept the laughs rolling in, to the ancient lothario Jefferson Steele (Humphrey Skett) – well done to the costume and makeup department for turning out a really believable washed up Hollywood star, from the impossible hair to the stacked shoes! Humphrey nailed that part!

The ladies also stepped up to the plate – Dorothy was passionate and driven and we saw her relationship with Jefferson change as the play progressed. Lauren (Ros Williams), the sophisticated wife of the beer brewing sponsor gave us one of the most hilarious scenes of the play when she practised physio on Jefferson – to the goggle eyed disgust of Mary (Lynn Lunn) – who, along with Denis, kept us chuckling with their antics – every play needs a Mary and a Denis! Jessica (Louise Coe) provided the foil to bring out the hidden softer side of Jefferson and we felt her complex mix of feelings for the father she really had never had. And behind all this we had the most wonderful singing tying everything together thanks to Barry Shyvers.

Well done to the props team for meeting the impossible requests of sourcing everything from a mobility scooter to a working nail gun and dancing eyeballs. And well done to Derek Holland for having the vision (and energy) to bring this great production to life in Rotherfield!

Everyone front and back stage contributed to make this a most enjoyable play that I would happily see again and again!

JAN DUCHESNE

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