

## THERE GOES THE BRIDE - F.A.D.S

Knowing that this play is a great favourite of Yvonne's, and that I have seen at least one previous version of hers, I took my seat with some trepidation as what this production could offer.

The curtain opened to a clean uncluttered, well dressed set. It is very difficult to present "retro" plays and obtain the necessary furniture ( unless you are the BBC props/furniture dept) , so it was a good idea to put in the programme that it was set in the 1970s. I did like the angular retro bookcase wall dressings on the back wall, and the use of period props. It was a very elegant set, and was appreciated by the audience. Congratulations once again to the builder(s). All very stable and not a wobble in sight considering how many times those lovely doors opened and closed.

And now to the cast, ladies first.

Sara, you played a wonderful role as the " not so virgin" bride to be. You looked lovely in your period looking wedding gown, being fussed over by your Mum. It is not easy playing a blushing bride when your big exit from the stage is in floods of tears. Well played, Sara. Just the right amount of control needed.

Alicia, what a wonderfully understanding Ursula you gave us. A mother of the bride is always nervous enough, without the exasperations of your husband to cope with. Your facial expressions and deportment on stage was perfect. Just the right amount of control throughout. Well done.

Elizabeth was a scream as Daphne. What a great comedy part. Some brilliantly funny throw away lines, beautifully delivered.

Helen, you delivered your lines perfectly, you looked wonderful in your flapper outfit, but I felt that the facial expressions were overdone, and some of the arm movements. When you had lots of movement, and especially in Act 2, it was lovely. You worked very well with David.

And now, the gentlemen.....

Luke, how pleased I am to see how much your stage presence is improving. You seemed a lot more at ease in this production. You still need to speak up a little, I "lost" some of the end of your lines.

Now then, David and Marshall. How well you worked together. What wonderful writing to make these two parts so true to a farce. Timing was spot on, even to the clashes with the door. I realise a lot of that is in the direction, but ultimately it is the actors responsibility to be in the right place at the right time. Congratulations also Marshall, for taking over the role at short notice. I hate to think what you could of done with more time!! Brilliant work, the pair of you.

Bob, bit of a different role for you. Although you had a long wait in the green room before your entrance, but by golly, it was worth the wait. I could really believe that you had sat backstage working yourself up into a fury , just as Mr Babcock, or Basingstoke, or whatever your name was, had done in the church. Maintaining that accent throughout was a tour de force. The business with the soda siphon was a joy to behold. It's not an easy prop at the best of times, but you certainly had me chuckling away.

Yvonne, you have done it again. Great direction. It's not easy with a large cast, and especially with one who was invisible to all but one.

A few niggles.....( and they are just my opinion of a niggles.....)

I realise that Luke looked more like the Groom than the Timothy's business partner, and I also know how hard it is to get the right age of men, but could not the line about "He is our oldest friend.....etc have been altered?

Why didn't the men have matching cravats?

I'm sorry, but the use of artificial flowers looked very odd. They really didn't look like they had just come from the florist.

Overall, as an ensemble piece, the cast worked very well together, by and large diction and clarity of sound was excellent and gave the audience something to chuckle about and a good evening's entertainment. Congratulations all round to the cast and crew, and also, I must add, to your wonderful front of house crew, who are always there with a welcome smile and a cheery thank you for coming when we leave, which is always nice to hear.