

Stage Struck

Ferring Amateur Dramatic Society

Date

23 June 2016

Venue

Ferring Village Hall

Type of Production

Play

Producer / Director

Carol Clark

Review

Author: **Jose Harrison**

This show holds a special place in my heart as my daughter played one of the lead parts on the only other occasion that I saw this amusing comedy/thriller romp. I'm delighted to be able to write that I enjoyed FADS version just as much and must congratulate Carol Clark for her excellent direction.

The stage plan and furnishing made for ease of movement with cleverly placed entrances and exits, with appropriate props. The costumes looked right and the lighting and sound all worked well. I was also highly impressed by the "computer" who certainly had the best of the lines that were delivered with fantastic timing and wonderful intonation causing huge enjoyment to the audience. However none of the above would work without a good solid cast of actors filling their various roles providing a variety of personality with good timing, great facial expressions and in general good acting.

Firstly I must talk about Sandie Smith who took over the very demanding role of Jennie, the owner of the theatrical agency, with only four weeks of rehearsal remaining. She really is a star giving an excellent and totally convincing performance being incredibly word perfect and ideal for the part. Karen Franklin as her slightly loony secretary provided a good portion of the comedy going over the top under all circumstances bringing every scene to life with her enthusiasm and general reaction to all and sundry. Jaime Crow, a newcomer to FADS, gave a sterling interpretation of a "good guy" who wasn't so good. Alicia Eliasinska as the very unconvincing actress Beryl appeared in so many outrageous costumes I almost lost track. She also had another hidden talent. Her singing was a joy to hear, which was such a lovely surprise after her various awful roles she professed she was capable of filling. John Croot and Colin Bolton, the 'Laurel and Hardy' pair were two more baddies, the first full of plans and the second a sheer delight, being as thick as two short planks. Elizabeth Toon, David Morgan and Julie Harper completed the cast convincingly adding to an excellent evening of entertainment.