

Stage Struck – FADS, June 2016

Quite often, before I come to see a play I don't know, I try to find time to read a script beforehand, so I have a little knowledge of what is to happen. In this case, I didn't need too as I have known this for many years. It is a well written play which gives scope for every actor to shine. All the parts have a comic value of their own, and together they should make an evening of sheer jollity, and, I have to say, by and large, that is what we got. (if a play can keep my husband awake and chuckling for the whole evening, as this did, then you did well!!)

I loved the set. Once again your designer and builders did a great job. The door was strong and unmovable. The furniture was well placed which allowed for good movement around the stage. The dressing of the set was also well thought out. The posters, perhaps only recognisable to a few, were a lovely touch. The only issue I have is the window. I wasn't entirely sure what we were supposed to be seeing through it. It looked like filing cabinets.....but I would've liked to see an outside view...high rise buildings etc. (Please forgive my eyesight, if that is what it was.) Good sound effects, as usual, although, what a shame that the front of house curtain music was a little quiet and for such a short time.

We were treated to some wonderfully funny moments, the business with Kruger and the coat stand, the hiding of the jewels in the fish tank, and, of course the antics of the man mad secretary!!

Congratulations must go to Sandie, taking on a role in such a short time. You did a wonderful job and really, if a curtain announcement hadn't been given, we wouldn't have known. You played the office manager very well indeed, giving us a good range of her/your talents. From dealing with a temperamental computer, to an oversexed secretary, and a pair of reluctant actors.

Karen, what a great performance as Shirley. Your advances to every full blooded male was a joy to watch. What a superb dippy secretary you make.

Jamie, you were very relaxed as the private detective, and put over the part very well. John and Colin as Malone and Kruger were enjoyable to watch. I would've liked Malone to have been a little more in charge, which would have then made Kruger look even more stupid. Colin, please can you remember not to look at the audience when speaking. Look at the others on the stage, and do not break the "fourth wall" rule. Your level of stupidity was about right.

I love Elizabeth's portrayal of the computer repair woman... just right. David and Julie were amazing as the magic act. Great tricks and not easy to learn either. I felt however that their later appearance as the officers of the law, was underplayed.

It must be obvious by now, that I have omitted someone.....Alicia. Well, my goodness, didn't you do well. Beryl is a great part to play, and all those changes of costumes too. Your timing is superb, and the audience's reaction to your lovely singing in Act Two was splendid. You were a joy to watch.

Somehow, I felt that on occasions the action as a whole was played too much as a play with comic bits, instead of the farce I expected it to be. Maybe some of the action could have been a little quicker and dialogue a little faster, but that may have improved in later performances.

I hope you all enjoyed rehearsing and performing this play, as much as I have enjoyed watching you.