

IRCHESTER PLAYERS

MR WHATNOTE

SHOW REPORT

It is so nice to be asked to go and review a play that I have not seen before! "Mr Whatnot" is an insanely funny play written in 1963 by Alan Ayckbourn. The plot is woven around a small company of seven actors. The central character is Mint (Mr Whatnot) who is a mute piano tuner asked to go to the Grange where he falls in love with Lord and Lady Craddock's daughter Amanda, unfortunately for Mint she is engaged to Cecil ...

Ali Everitt had the unenviable task of directing this play, which requires well-timed scene changes and lots of pace, Ali has certainly accomplished this very well indeed. Choreographer Ashleigh Dodson's work was imaginative and deserves praise too.

The performers have all been cast well in their roles, without exception they all maintained their characters throughout the performance. I am not going to single out individual performances as each actor deserves praise, however, I must mention Ryan Watson who played Mr Whatnot, having no dialogue he has rely on the very difficult theatrical technique of mime to communicate with the other characters, he did this very well, occasionally he could have defined the mime with a bit more exaggeration but congratulations Ryan on a good performance. Bob Mutch impressed me too with his multi characters of a Pedestrian, a Butler, a Gardener and a Vicar! Bob was hysterically funny, well done! Nick Gough (Lord Slingsby Craddock), Julie Haydon (Lady Slingsby Craddock), Kimberley Hollis (Amanda), Luke Campbell (Cecil) and Sue Gough (A Tweedy Lady) all gave solid and well-timed performances, well done to you all.

The Sets and props were excellent, greatly enhancing the visual look of the production. Costumes were very good too and were in keeping with the style of the era. There was good use of lighting, sound and sound effects throughout. Congratulations to all the technical team.

Congratulations to all the company both on and off the stage for an excellent performance of "Mr Whatnot", you should be very proud of what was one of the funniest plays that I have seen.

Thank you to Irchester Players for a wonderfully entertaining evening!

CAROLINE JERVIS

NODA EM DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE