

Move over Mrs Markham Review by Sharon Drummond North West Theatre Arts Company (NWTAC)

This show a farce needs fast pace from the actors, an ability not to laugh or corpse and as in most farces at least 3-4 doors to enter/exit! It is a play where nearly every character is keeping a secret which leads to plenty of laughs. The direction was faultless and there was never a dull moment with action kept at the fast pace throughout especially in the Act 2.

The set looked great with a lounge area of the Markham's home and to stage left a bedroom with a door to the bathroom off of this. All sets are built in house and congratulations to the set builders as the whole thing worked really well. The lighting and sound effects complimented the action and the actors projected well. The costumes suited the characters and the props were in keeping with the times.

Despite the young ages of the cast it is so important to show the different sorts of theatre that are out there and how the world has changed (or its similarities) in such a short space of time.

Tempany Windsor was fabulous as Joanna Markham. With clear diction on her many lines and a naivety needed for the part she looked and sounded great with her clipped British accent. Her interaction with her fellow actors looked so natural and Tempany is very watchable with great stage presence.

Adam Whitmore put in a great performance as Alistair Spenlow the interior designer employed by the Markham's to decorate their home. His timing and expressions were super and fitted his character perfectly. His confusion around the relationships he was caught up in was again very fitting.

Jasmine Nisic played the "goosed" au pair Sylvie with a nice foreign accent and clear diction, perfect entrances and exits and confusion of language and characters.

Rachel Redford was superb as Linda Lodge with great comic timing and delivery of lines. Again very watchable with plenty of stage presence and full understanding of what is required in a farce.

Mr Markham was brilliantly played by Jonny Molyneux. As the show went on he became more and more manic and this created much of the comedy in Act 2. A super portrayal.

Liam Watson played the Ladies Man Henry Lodge with a nice buffoon type air which the part definitely requires. His delivery was clear and concise and his scenes with Jonny as Mr Markham were beautifully choreographed.

Olivia Hollamby was great as Olive Harriet Smythe the author of children's books that the agency is desperate to sign. Her upper class accent, demeanour and prudish attitude were portrayed with expertise by Olivia.

Melissa Grimes and Elton Amoateng played the supporting roles of Felicity Jane Wilkinson and Walter Pangbourne with some nice touches. Felicity was super adding to the confusion in her initial bedroom scene and Elton as the bowler hat wearing Walter played the confused part with ease. Both complimented the main cast brilliantly.

Overall this was a fabulous evening's entertainment with plenty of laughs and delivered by a company of young people who immerse themselves in the different styles of theatre with complete conviction making the audience completely believe in the performances. Thank you all for a lovely evening and I look forward to seeing you all soon.