



Society : Chesham Theatre Company
Production : Outside Edge
Date : 30th June 2013
Venue : The Bury, Chesham
Report by : Rita Carpenter

Report

INTRODUCTION

It was a lovely warm sunny day, so much different from last year when it poured down. The audience were invited to bring a picnic and sit on the grass or under the awning which gave pleasant shade from the sun. This very funny play written by Richard Harris was the perfect choice. It was such a pity that the audience was rather sparse but being Wimbledon week perhaps this was not the best date to choose. We received a very warm welcome and were able to select our seats.

THE PROGRAMME

Designed by **Jenny Crumpton** and **Steve Urry** with Jenny responsible for the contents and **Jason Bingley** for the production it was well set out with photographs and details of the cast. Printed on glossy paper with the NODA logo on the front and excellent details of what NODA represents inside this was a very good programme.

THE SET

This was excellent. Designed by **Roger Miller** who also constructed it together with **Peter Threadgold**, **Peter Laskher** **Kenny Furness** and **Doug Miller**, it perfectly represented the cricket club and its surroundings. The area around the set was also used to its best advantage enabling the audience to feel part of the action. The clever use of camouflage around the stage area was a clever device.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

Steve Cherry designed the lighting but as it was a sunny afternoon he was not able to demonstrate his talents to the full. There were some superb sound effects from **Josh Rees** especially the shouts from the cricket match and the music which preceded the opening of both the first and second half of the play was suitably chosen. It was a pity that some of the action in the play was interrupted by the many helicopters passing overhead, those of the wealthy on their way to Heathrow but this was not the fault of the cast and they coped admirably.

PROPS

Members of the group were down on the programme for the props. It would have looked a little more realistic if the beer which was collected for the members of the team had not obviously been empty bottles, a few bottles on the top layer of each crate with tops on would have looked more authentic.

COSTUMES

It appears the members of the cast provided their own, the cricket whites and sweaters were authentic, I felt for Maggie having to wear a fur coat on such a sweltering day, in total contrast to Ginnie sporting a bikini, quite a difference in attire.. I felt Sharon's outfit was a little too staid for her character.

THE CAST

Ted Muir was excellent as Roger the bolshy condescending team captain, delegating all the work to others and then taking the credit.

Eleanor Phillips played Miriam his long suffering wife superbly, one could really feel sorry for the way she was put upon and dismissed by her husband and generally jollied along by the other members of the cricket team.

Kevin was well played by **Leon Pilling** the demon spin bowler babied by his wife and who was almost out of the team with a blister.

Maggie was played by **Carline van der Pol** this is a peach of a part but I didn't feel Carline fulfilled its potential, she occasionally rushed her words resulting on loss of dialogue and did not wait for the laughs before continuing. However she did quite a good job.

Bob was impressively played by **Jason Bingley** stuck between his ex wife and his second wife Ginnie admirably played by **Amy Hill**, forever giving him a hard time by playing the neglected wife.

Nick Lansdowne was amusing as Dennis indulging his wife as she spent her time looking at houses with a view to moving although he had no intention of doing so. He got his com-uppance when she set fire to his new car. I guess Health and Safety prevented anything more than the small amount of smoke which was a trifle unrealistic for a burning car.

Andrew Watsham was well cast as the handsome ladies man Alex caring only for himself and his own satisfaction and not very popular with the other members of the cricket team, his performance was impressive.

Priya Kantaria as Sharon was, I felt, miscast, she did her best but was unconvincing in the role.

IN CONCLUSION

This is an excellent choice for an open air production and on the whole **Paul Eckersall** as director did a good job. The script is very funny and it was played for the laughs but there were quite a few awkward pauses which slowed down the action. This was a pity as there were some very strong members. It was such a shame that the audience was so small because those who were not there missed a pleasant afternoon's entertainment. It is to be hoped that the other three performances were better attended as it must be disheartening to perform to such a small audience but judging by the laughs and applause they enjoyed themselves. A special mention must go to Ann Rogers, she did at times have to work hard and her bow at the end was amusing and well deserved