



Society : Chesham Theatre Company  
Production : Dirty Dusting  
Date : 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
Venue : Little Theatre by the Park  
Report by : Rita Carpenter

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## Report

It is always pleasant to go to a Supper Theatre and thank you for the excellent seats. The place soon filled up with everyone laying out their food making for a very pleasant and friendly atmosphere.

The set was quite basic, but sturdy, designed and built by **Roger Miller** and **Peter Threadgold** it depicted a very untidy office and was well constructed with a door on either side of the stage which opened and closed with ease and a cupboard for cleaning utensils two desks and the usual office stationery. It was a clever depiction of a very untidy work space.

The programme by **Eleanor Philips** was well presented in good quality paper with the NODA logo on the front cover and a half page detail inside, it is good to know that NODA is well represented and reference was made to the awards won by the group.

**Gwenda Hudson** had to work hard on make-up to depict the cleaning ladies looking 'over the hill'. I liked the grey in their hair and it caused a laugh when the thong on the head of Gladys was pulled off and a puff of grey dust arose.

The lighting by **Steve Cherry** was basic but perfectly adequate. **Charlie Carrington** on sound had quite a task with telephones, vacuum cleaner and a dictaphone recording but everything was carried out smoothly and efficiently.

**Mary Murray** gave a lively performance as Elsie she was comfortable in the role and it showed. She was most convincing.

The rather strait-laced Gladys was played by **Estelle Foster**. At the start she seemed a little hesitant and unsure but when she became Madonna, what a transformation, she was great.

**Eleanor Phillips** was Olive the ex Guide Captain boring everyone with her exploits. She was most convincing and played her part well.

**Ryk Burnett** as Dave the rather nasty Office Manager was quite a change from his excellent performance in The Producers, he demonstrated his versatility and was most unpleasant in his depiction of the role.

I believe that due to being unable to cast the production originally advertised because of a shortage of actors (sadly something many groups are experiencing), a new play had to be hastily chosen and cast and it must have given director **Gavin Webb** quite a headache with only two months to get it on stage. It may have been why it appeared rather under-rehearsed. The ladies occasionally struggled with their lines and several times called each other by the wrong name. There was quite a pause at one point and prompt must be on the ball because it slows up the action especially in a comedy.

This was not a particularly well written play, there were some funny lines but much of the action was predictable. However the cast did their best and the audience were very vocal in their approval and support which is the most important thing as they will then want to return for further productions and the whole point about any group is to entertain the audience which they so noticeably did.