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OCTOPUS AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Hello. Is there anybody there?
Christ the King Church Hall, Thornbury

June 9th 2011

Director: Gil Gilroy

Assistant Director: Phil Domaille

It is a pleasure to visit this very enthusiastic group, who always set out to enjoy themselves and entertain their audience. This very amusing and totally ridiculous farce, written by Ian Hornby verged on pantomime in places, the audience almost becoming an extra character, and you would not have been surprised if someone had started heckling. After dinner at Squire Grange while Sir Malcolm dozes in the chair, Lady Amelia is searching for new ideas for her latest mystery novel, and family friend Freddy is persuaded to help. Meanwhile Vic Tim arrives to burgle the house and is promptly shot by an unknown assailant. This creates the problem of how to remove Vic's body, not only is he making an untidy mess on stage, but he has to come back in Act II as a policeman. The absurdity continued from here until the end of the play, when Miss Marbles arrives to reveal 'Who Dunnit'. As always the set was well designed, constructed and dressed. The cast was appropriately attired. The stage was well lit, and sound and lighting cues were spot on. The cast had entered into the spirit of the play with relish and gave good performances working well as a team, each being 'the star of the show'. I would like to mention a few individual performances. Alison Bagnall and Clive Roberts worked well together as Lady Amelia Simpson-Squire, and Sir Malcolm. The contrast between the enthusiastic, active-minded Lady Amelia, and the brandy drinking, couch-potato Sir Clive, who shows an interest when a pretty girl appears, was well depicted, showing how difficult it was sometimes, being married to him. Phil Domaille took on the roles of Vic Tim and DC Fickey with gusto; he showed good variation of character. As Vic Tim, his timing with the sound effects when he was being shot was excellent, as was his death-throw gyrations. As DC Fickey, as the name implies he was thick as two short planks, with a penchant for violence. Mention must also go to Viv Wilson as Miss Marbles, who stepped in at the last minute after two previous ladies had had to withdraw. There were many very long pauses written into the script, which the cast handled well. Many of the audience were heard to say on leaving, that they had not laughed so much in a long time. Everyone involved in this production had worked hard to make it a success. Well-done Octopus on a very entertaining evening.

Frankie Telford
Regional Representative, District 15

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