

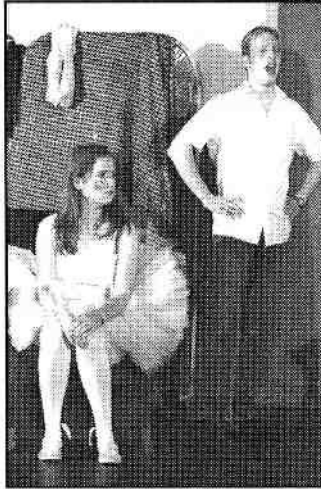
## Theatre Review

# Good food, nice wine but what about the acting?

The Wychwood Players Supper Evening has become a very popular annual event, so much so that tickets sell like hot cakes. The members do a wonderful job making the Village Hall a welcoming venue. Tables are adorned with flowers and candles and the bar provides very pleasant wines at reasonable prices.

The first play 'Cup Final' takes place in the dressing room of a group of actors awaiting the results of a Drama Festival in which they have competed. The normal characters one would expect in any group of amateur actors (except The Wychwood Players!) were encapsulated in the play. The emotional director, who felt he had been let down by poor acting, the young attractive "starlet" who had ruined the play when she fell into a box, the experienced actress bring a calming influence, and of course the amorous gorilla, and the "flouncy" Golliwog. Whilst we see all the despair and anxieties of the actors awaiting the final adjudication, his announcement brings some joy when finally received. The play was a nice balance of humour, farce, and a touch of required over acting.

It was good to see some new faces in the Players, and both Bobby Hawkins and John Trevers gave excellent debut performances and hopefully we will see them both again in future productions.



Emily Lewis with Bobby Hawkins

"Chinaman" followed an excellent meal, and revolved around the dining room of Stephen and Jo as they make their final preparations for a dinner party. The guests arrive early and are put in the library (offstage). Bee announces she has brought her new boyfriend, Alex. Unfortunately Barney her husband, from whom she is now separated, also arrives, a little later having been invited when they were together.

He is parked in the kitchen and the play revolves around the couples' efforts to keep his arrival a secret from his ex wife. There are some manic scenes as Stephen and Jo make hilarious efforts to serve the dinner, whilst keeping Bee and Barney in separate rooms.

As the curtain went down, only two actors took a bow, and it is only then I realised they had played all the five characters we saw during the play. Zoe Humphreys and Rob Gorton gave excellent performances, in all their disguises, and kept the play moving at a fast pace despite what must have been some very quick changes.

Daphne Waugh and Dudley Thompson directed the plays, and as usual the scenery, lighting and effects were of the high standard we have come to expect. Oh and the acting was as good as the food and wine.

**Gordon Halliday**