

Theatre Review

Lilies on the Land

Memories revived

On an open stage with no scenery and only four chairs as props, four talented performers brought to vivid life the memories of the Women's Land Army.

Sarah Finch, Dorothy Lawrence, Kali Peacock and Sonia Ritter not only acted true stories from the Land Girls but also devised the production and wrote the script (with Natasha Tamar).



Absorbing tale

The audience could obviously empathise with the theme of wartime reminiscences and listened to the individual portrayals with rapt attention. Even when fireworks were exploded outside the Hall it merely seemed like some opportune sound effects punctuating a wartime tale. Some relevant songs, performed with vigour, occurred at appropriate points in the tale.

Personally I would have liked more enactment of scenes in place of the "stand-up" routines but this did not detract from my overall pleasure and appreciation of the abundant skills of all four of the cast. Each actress skilfully established a recognisable character and the episode of the rat-killing certainly stays in my mind.

Professional performance

We are lucky to have such fine professionals visiting us and I congratulate "the Lions part" in their initiative in devising this original production. There are inevitable echoes

of "Oh What a Lovely War"; although "Lilies on the Land" covers a narrower theme, there is no doubt some potential for enhancing its appeal and its future production prospects with

more dramatised group scenes and more of the enjoyable singing.

Perhaps some of the recollections of the WLA could be edited to provide more poignancy and drama, but all in all "the Lions part" gave the appreciative audience a memorable show.

Stars in the Making

Remember the names of Sarah Finch, Dorothy Lawrence, Kali Peacock and Sonia Ritter because their abilities will surely bring them deserved recognition and then we can recall that we saw them perform so brilliantly in our Hall.

John Drew

In our next Past and Present we would like to feature memories of our own Land Army girls. If you have stories you would like to share with us please contact me. Editor.