

Theatre Review

Veronica's Room

The Wychwood Players embarked on a sinister and ambitious project when they decided to stage *Veronica's Room* by the American Ira Levin, who famously also wrote *Rosemary's Baby*, which frightened the daylight out of everyone who saw it.

Not only is the plot of *Veronica's Room* feverishly convoluted, but The Woman and The Man are required to deliver their lines at first with an Irish accent, and then with a Boston accent, which was difficult for Amanda and John to master, but they did it very well.

The play was written and first presented in 1973, and David Trollope's set and Pat Bannister's costumes and props captured the period perfectly. Amanda Henriques had a hugely demanding role as The



Woman, and did it superbly. Philip Brown's excellent direction of John Drew, as The Man, and David Staines, as The Boy, caused them both to be convincingly malevolent throughout the production, and

Zoë Humphrey was wonderful as the poor unsuspecting murder victim.

The entire production was first rate, and a surprising departure from the plays which we have had in the past from the Wychwood Players.

This was as close to a professional performance as I have ever seen the Players produce, and it kept me spellbound.

Congratulations to them all!

Peggy Walmsley

...and a Letter from Trudy and David

Dear Players,

"Did you hear that very first "Bravo" or did the thunderous applause drown me out? Philip Brown was brave to attempt '*Veronica's Room*' but I am sure that he was confident that The Players would carry it off. All four of the cast were stretched (probably to breaking point during rehearsals) and gave the performances of their lives. A few in the audience may not have approved of the play but no one failed to praise the acting. Over the last two or three years the Players have carved an enviable reputation for themselves; we would not miss a performance. Who needs Oxford or Chipping Norton when we have the Wychwood Players and Flix in the Stix. Congratulations one and all and don't make us wait too long for an encore."

Trudy and David Yates