

Theatre Review

The Wychwood Players Supper Evening

It was a very cold night and one might have felt like snuggling up by the fire but what a wonderful evening we all had on Saturday, 4th March, packed into the New Beaconsfield Hall for the Players Supper Evening. This is a wonderful format as friends can get together, book a table and have a very sociable evening with good food and wine as well as watching two plays.

Browning Version

The two plays presented were very different. First we had Sir Terence Rattigan's *Browning Version*- I can remember seeing this with Sir Michael Redgrave. Under Dudley Thompson's able direction the play achieved a fresh slant. The cast were all excellent,



especially James Trevers as Taplow. He was a most composed thirteen year old and did not falter even when he arrived on stage to find that a vital prop was missing - he simply mimed it and I am sure that the audience thought that was as it was meant to be. He also maintained the required 'public school' accent throughout. He was ably supported by both his parents as Frank Hunter and Millie Crocker-Harris. My greatest praise goes to Phillip Croxson as retiring schoolmaster, Andrew Crocker-Harris. This was by far the best performance I

have seen Phillip give and I have seen every production for the last six years. Apparently, Phillip has always wanted to play this part and he certainly made the most of the opportunity. Several of the audience were moved to tears when he broke down and cried towards the end of the play.

A Respectable Funeral

After the supper we were presented with *A Respectable Funeral* by Jimmie Chinn,



which as a play was a bit disappointing as nothing really happened and we were all waiting for a twist which never came. However, all the cast were well worth watching and played the characters for laughs, they all put a great deal of effort into their performances. Mark Jessey had a big challenge as he did not appear until right at the end and had to build a character and empathy with the audience in very little time. It was a good directing debut for Rosemary Hartley.

Without the support given by the rest of the Players, the evening would not have been possible. Everyone was involved; selling programmes, running the bar, prompting, working back-stage, lights, set-building, box office and the wonderful members running the kitchen and acting as waitresses. Well done!

Margaret Gibbs