

## Photo Review

# Rene's Salubrious Saucy Supper Evening

We couldn't resist a photo review of the latest Wychwood Players production of *Allo Allo* by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft.

Those of you who remember the original TV production will recognise all the characters brought to life in the New Beaconsfield Hall.

Turning the hall into René's cafe was inspired. Eating sausage stew followed by profiteroles at check-covered tables set the tone for the evening. Purchasing drinks at the café bar worked brilliantly.

The audience really felt part of the action as the splendid cast approached the scene from all corners of the stage and the hall. It must have been challenging to say the least to effect such an impressive transformation.



## Theatre Review

# Rene's Salubrious Saucy Supper Evening

Were you there? No? Well, you poor deprived person! There were three dates to choose from, and that left plenty of time to do all your pre-Christmas chores. Surely, you could

have spared time to bask in the glory of the most blissful banquet of bemusement the Wychwood Players has ever produced...at least in my memory!

### Sold Out!

On second thoughts there was no room for you anyway, as all three nights were sold out well in advance, and there was a waiting list, because this production was so eagerly anticipated. Those members of the audience who were familiar with the television show thought that the characterisations were universally perfect, and each actor portrayed their part flawlessly. In fact, most performances were so ideal for the actors who played them that one forgot who those familiar faces were in real life, and eagerly accepted their new selves.

Mark Jessey as René was brilliant with dead pan expressions and terribly funny dialogue. Ann Hilling as René's wife, Edith, was magnificently over the top, and I know she can sing, so singing off-key must have been a challenge, but it was very amusing. Rose Hartley's undercover spy "I vill only say this vonce", was hilarious. Yvette and Mimi (Kate Lister and Jill Collins) had some wonderful lines, and hysterical wigs. René told them "Don't swat flies on the



ham, do it on the cake where you can't see them." Kim Bradley's (Helga) striptease and Philip Croxson's (Herr Flick) German dance had us all in stitches.

Crabtree "Good Moaning to you," was ideally played by Ed Reynolds, and Ralph Wear's silly walk was perfectly executed. I can now picture Richard Hartley's Captain Bertorelli on the back of a tractor, complete with Hitler moustache and plastic nose.

### A Very Fine Performance

The show was very demanding of all the actors and also of the back-stage crowd. There were as many as eight scene changes per act, and so there was as much demand for accuracy in the set changes as there was in the acting. The costumes and particularly the wigs were fantastic. I long to see John Drew's wiglet again, it will make my day!

All in all, this was a very cohesive and high level performance from all the participants, congratulations to Mandyrae Large for pulling it all together, and giving us a fabulous evening's entertainment.

Don't miss the Wychwood Players next performance.

### Peggy Walmsley

*After years of sterling service, Peggy will soon be stepping down as our theatre critic. Thank you Peggy.*

*If you feel you would be interested in taking over, please contact the Editor.*