

AN EVENING OF DRAMA & A REVUE
Masque Players
Friday 16th July

The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley was a very good choice for an evening of light entertainment. Well directed by **Lynn Rockell** and written by David Tristram it is one of a group. I have seen this play before but it is so funny I was happy to see it again. The only one of the David Tristram Little Grimley series I have yet to see is Last Panto in Little Grimley which I hope sooner or later I shall have the pleasure of reviewing.

Margaret – **Megan Boddy** played the rather posh Margaret extremely well, she was convincing as the one who took command of the group.

Joyce – played by **Rosie Whitelock** was a peach of a role and she gave an excellent performance as the fussy, not too bright secretary taking the minutes and dreaming of staging a musical which was most unlikely with a cast of only four members.

Gordon – **Martin Stephen** was convincing as the belligerent member who always seems to be in a grumpy mood but as the action unfolded the reasons became evident.

Last but by no means least was **Bernard** ably played by **Alan Frost** who gave a polished, laid back performance using his ever present banana as a prop and completing the group of very different characters.

The pace was good and the laughs came thick and fast and made the first half of the show an extremely enjoyable experience.

The audience was entertained during the interval by **Pearl Chubb** on piano who gave a delightful rendition of songs from the shows. It was quite a pleasant change to have live interval music.

A REVUE

The second part of the evening consisted of sketches, monologues and songs. I loved the opening number 'No Business like Show Business' with its sparkly backdrop, it gave just the right atmosphere for the start of the second half..

Caroline McDonnell cleverly engaged the audience with her monologue 'Giving Notes' **Pearl Chubb** gave two very different monologues. I enjoyed the Joyce Grenfell monologue 'Story Time'. The second 'Etchings' was very humorous and well received by the audience. Look alike **Matt Aspden** gave an hilarious 'Mr Bean' sketch with **Justin Clinch** as his straight man. Indeed it was the only time Justin appeared serious.

There were songs from **Jenni Churches, Vikki Gomm, Matt Aspden** and I particularly liked the setting for 'Something Stupid' from **Jocelyn Pearce** and **Martin Stephen** but it was not balanced and the harmony was heavier than the melody which was a pity.. There were some lively forties numbers by The Anderson Sisters, **Jocelyn Pearce, Alison Rogers** and **Vikki Gomm** all with good voices, but again the harmonies were not balanced. **Justin Clinch** gave his usual frenetic performance throwing himself all over the stage, I do fear for the future of this young man's knees. He is such a talented actor that I do wish he was given something else to do and not typecast as a knock about comedian, he has so much more to offer.

The audience were delighted with the evening's entertainment and I look forward to future production by The Masque Players.

Rita Carpenter. – Bucks Free Press.