

HUNTINGDON DRAMA CLUB : THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Director : Sarah Ward

Performed at the Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon on Thursday 25th March, 2010.

This is a very well-known play and I have seen many productions of varying quality so I tended to approach this evening with some misgivings. However, I needn't have worried. After a rather slow start, this was a performance of great strength from, (with one unfortunate exception,) a strong and talented company. Even the small roles of Lane and Merriman were memorable and Scott Hutchison, standing in at short notice, gave a very enjoyable and measured interpretation of Canon Chasuble. Neal Dench as Jack Worthing is one of the few actors I have seen to clearly differentiate between the two aspects of the character and this contributed significantly to the overall comedy. This was a lucid performance and it was matched by four magnificent and totally complementary performances from the women in the cast. Lindsey Kennedy gave a very thoughtful and effective rendition of Miss Prism, matching Canon Chasuble perfectly. Charlotte Pergande was a charmingly naïve Cecily and she contrasted beautifully with the delightfully sophisticated Gwendolen of Caroline Harbord, who fully demonstrated that young ladies steadily develop into the character of their mothers. Their duologue in the garden was particularly well done. Completing the quartet, Steph Hamer was absolutely superb as Lady Bracknell. One tends to forget how brief a time Lady Bracknell is actually on stage. By her competent delivery of the language, dominant stage presence and wonderful facial expressions, Steph made every moment count! The greatest tribute I can offer to this talented group is that they coped so well with the one weak link in the cast. The presentation was attractive and, altogether, the production was a great credit to Sarah Ward in her first directing role for the Club.

Michael G Williamson

NODA Regional Representative : District 1