



“Outside Edge”

Huntingdon Commemoration Hall

Thursday 24th Nov 2016

Director: Steph Hamer

Thank you to front of house manager Marion Stribling for your lovely welcome to Huntingdon Drama Club's production of “Outside Edge”. The open stage showed the fantastic box set on two levels designed by Nat Spalding. It consisted of an internal club house with two working doors and a visible bar through a hatch. It was well decorated and representative of a cricket club pavilion. On the lower level was the exterior cricket field boundary with a scoreboard to stage left. I must congratulate the set construction team of Peter Welsh and Perry Incedon-Webber for the solid construction which I am sure made life easier for Wendy Chappell's appropriate props to be stage managed smoothly by Vicky Spurway. Ann Monk and Sarah Cornforth's costume were contemporary and put together well. The cricket whites, pads, bats, helmets and gloves were authentic and well sourced. Mel Pugsley's lights and sound were perfectly balanced.

Phil Leverett played Roger with just the right amount of pomposity. As frustrating as Roger's self-centeredness can be, Phil managed to still create a likeable character that you end up admiring for his competitiveness leadership and passion for his team and its sport. His long suffering wife was played admirably by Caroline Molony, whose meltdown was inevitable but thoroughly entertaining. Dean Laccohee has a wonderfully real acting style that made Bob totally believable, especially when he returns from the pub, slightly worse for the drink - Dean was a very convincing drunk. Josephine Hussey was superb as the capable and overpowering Maggie. What Josephine lacked in stature and size she made up for in stage presence. Milton Travesty as Kevin started off a little pantomimy with some over the top facial expressions, but he soon settled into the part and did very well. Chris Thompson as Alex was arrogant enough but could have shown a little more charm to explain how he was able to pick up so many women. Tessa Wagnall was good as Sharon, Alex's latest conquest. Sharon Reed as Ginnie was perfectly aloof and showed light and shade in her characterisation. Ginnie is quite a complex character and Sharron handled this very well. Bob Pugh made a great Dennis, his need to be loved by everybody was excruciating to watch.

Although there wasn't a great deal of movement in this play, Steph Hamer did have to work hard on the characterisations and interactions between the group and their respective couples, and this was certainly accomplished. Although there was light and shade, I just felt that the shade could have been a bit darker which would have made the light relief all the brighter. Otherwise a very well directed piece of work and I was pleased to see that an effort was made to keep up with the actual match scores on the manned scoreboard.

Don McKay

Councillor NODA East