



Be inspired by amateur theatre

Society : Potters Bar Theatre Company
Production : SHADOWLANDS
Date : Tuesday 25th October 2016
Venue : Tillbury Hall
Report by : Michael Monk

Show Report

After reviewing 'Little voice' earlier this year for you I had high expectations for this evening's production of Shadowlands. I am very pleased to report that you exceeded my expectation.

Shadowlands is a magnificent portrait of late-flowering love and loss. MICHAEL CRISP is to be congratulated on delivering a well drilled cast in the most moving and heart felt piece of drama I have seen in many years.

The audience walked in to a beautifully presented set (no one credited in programme for set design) and staged on the auditorium floor which was most pleasing and felt you were sitting in the room with the cast. Clever design of the wardrobe for the Narnia moments and the sliding desk, most ingenious. Stage Management, well managed, under the helm of BRIAN HAMSHERE with additional set construction by COLIN SMALE, PETER VINER, DAVID AND ADAM BOTTOMLEY.

The attention to detail from the props team of VAL GOLDING AND CATHERINE LITTLE was super, even down to the old paper chain Christmas decorations.

Lighting, Sound design and operation by CAMERON BIGGS was very well executed with great mood lighting giving the right ambience throughout. First scene change music was rather overpowering but adjustment made as the play progressed.

Wardrobe by The Costume Store and managed by wardrobe mistress Christine Gray again came up trumps with perfect period costumes in keeping with all the characters for the play.

The programme, JENNY COLLEDGE, was extremely well presented and very informative.

C.S Lewis – NICK VAUSE – Congratulations Nick on your terrific performance. To play such an iconic role as C.S. Lewis following very well-known professional performer's must have been very daunting. You must hold your head up high and be very proud! From your opening talk to the very end I felt so comfortable watching and listening to your journey from being uncomfortable in your own body talking with Joy then confidently declaring your love followed by the emotional depth after her death. Was a very warming and heartfelt performance. Congratulations.

Joy Gresham, nee DAVIDMAN – CATHERINE LITTLE – Equally, congratulations to you too Catherine for a terrific performance bringing some welcome comedy and a delicious sense of mischief to the role. You communicated to the audience, so brilliantly, Joy's suffering but her warmth of heart too. Bravo.

Major W.H. Lewis 'Warnie' – BRYAN HEWITT – A fine portrayal of 'Jack's' brother from a very accomplished performer. A few sticky moments but I'm sure that was due to opening night nerves. Some great one liners beautifully timed. Excellent pipe work too, good skill to still hear every word you spoke. Very good ageing makeup. Did you do it yourself? (No credit in programme for Makeup).

Professor Christopher Riley – PAUL LARGE – What a great opening scene stealing opportunity! Oxford Don tipsy personified throughout the first scene. Very amusing and set up your character beautifully.

Douglas – THOMAS LUKE – Thomas displayed good stage presence and confidence – in particular when playing so close to the audience. Delivered his dialogue with good diction and was heard at the back of the hall. Very moving end with 'Jack' after his mother's death.

Rev Harry Harrington – COLIN RICARDO – I think Colin may well be being type cast in yet another ecclesiastical role. Very solemn characterisation and competent performance throughout, great self-control in his body language.

Alan Gregg/Clerk/Priest – GEORGE ROWLANDS, Dr Maurice Oakly/Waiters x 2 – JIM ANDERSON, Registrar/Nurse – MICHELLE WILLIAMS and Doctor – SANNA SAHA. Each and every one gave excellent support in their numerous roles as well as being stage crew throughout the play.

Thank you once again for your very kind welcome and hospitality.

Best wishes

Michael Monk
Regional Representative
NODA London District 10